



Regional workshop on industrial statistics and classifications for the Arab countries Doha, Qatar from 30 September till 2 October 2013

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), and the Arab Industrial Development and Minerals Organization (AIDMO) are organizing a regional workshop on "Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries" in Doha, Qatar from 30 September till 2 October 2013.

Background:

Despite the growing importance of industrial information for investment, trade policy and business decisions, industrial statistics did not receive enough attention in the Arab region. Evidence suggests that the Arab region suffers the absence of reliable and detailed statistics on industrial activities and their relevant indicators driven by the lack of adequate methods to collect, compile and disseminate such statistics on a timely manner. The lack of providing up-to-date industrial statistics in the region limits the capacity of decision-makers, in both public and private sector, to make prudent decisions especially in the industrial and investment fields.

To promote the development of industrial statistics in the Arab region, the cooperating organizations organized a number of regional workshops starting with ESCWA's regional workshop on economic classifications in cooperation with UNSD in Cairo, Egypt during 10-13 December 2007, followed by the regional workshop on industrial statistics in Rabat, Morocco during 10-13 November 2008 that aimed at building national capacities in the Arab countries in collecting, compiling and disseminating industrial statistics. Recently, ESCWA partnered with a number of regional and international organizations for holding complementary activities on industrial statistics such as the one held in cooperation with UNSD and League of Arab States in Beirut during 15-16 November 2011, and for GCC in Doha in cooperation with UNSD, UNIDO and GOIC during 8-10 May 2012.

However, as the previous activities contributed to level up the skills of statistical offices and ministries of industry in the region, the need is still standing for more focused training on building national capacities in the region in order to promote the provision of industrial statistics, upgrade data quality and implement the relevant international standards and recommendations. In this respect and upon the request of many member countries to increase the capacity-building activities in industrial statistics and to have more staff trained on classifications, the cooperating organizations decided to hold this complimentary activity. The intended workshop aims at providing a threshold for better coordination and cooperation between ministries of industry and



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national statistical offices to produce reliable industrial statistics through an improved understanding of the implementation of the international classifications and recommendations. It will help to better handle collection and dissemination of statistics relevant to the Arab region's industrial activities, and to mitigate the prevailing data inconsistencies and discrepancies in classification methodologies.

1. Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aims at increasing the participants' knowledge in the area of collecting, compiling and disseminating industrial statistics. Participants will learn new skills and knowledge of the relevant statistical systems and international classifications relevant to collecting and compiling industrial statistics and indicators. Also, the opportunity will be open to all participants from National Statistical Offices and Ministries of Industry in the Arab countries and its different sub-regions to address the status of industrial statistics in their home countries, highlighting the prevailing difficulties, gaps and future improvement needs for industrial statistics. The workshop will then explore the possibilities of bridging the identified gaps through improving the frameworks of cooperation and coordination between these national entities.

The agenda will cover, among other things, the following items:

- (i) Importance of industrial statistics for policy making;
- (ii) The international recommendation for industrial statistics (IRIS 2008);
- (iii) The international standard industrial classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev.4);
- (iv) The central product classification (CPC Rev.2);
- (v) The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS); and
- (vi) Industrial statistics in the Arab countries: status and development needs.

2. Participants

Officials from national statistical offices and ministries of industry responsible for producing industrial statistics in the Arab countries will be invited to the workshop. Nominated participants are requested to make presentations on their relevant country experiences in industrial statistics.



Statistics experts from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will be invited as resource persons to take part in this workshop.

Working papers or presentations by participants concerning member countries' experiences in developing industrial statistics are welcomed during any of the sessions. Those who wish to make a presentation, under the approval of ESCWA, should submit their working papers no later than 10 September 2013, in order to make the necessary preparations and ensure the efficient organization of the Workshop.

3. Date and Venue

The Regional Workshop will take place during 30 September – 2 October 2013 in Retaj Royale Doha Hotel, Doha, Qatar.

Retaj Royale Hotel

Address: Al Meena Street, Old Salata

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4. Travel and accommodation of participants

Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel in Qatar. For participants who would like to stay at the hotel, the rate per night is **450 Qatari Riyal** as per the offer received from GOIC. With respect to entry visa to Qatar and with the Exception of GCC nationals, all participants must have an entry visa to Qatar unless they are exempt. Participants should send scanned colored copies of their passports with their nomination letters to ESCWA or AIDMO focal points to get their entry visas to Qatar. Passports should have validity of at least for six months.

5. Language

The Workshop will be held in English and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

7. Additional Information

Any inquiries and requests for additional information should be addressed to:

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