



Energy Reporting: Letting the Numbers Do the Talking



While the energy sector has a vital role in economic and social development in UN-ESCWA member countries in particular, most of these countries still need capacity building to meet the appropriate statistical requirements for formulating national development plans and international reporting. Indeed, the availability and overall quality of data on energy face several problems in the UN-ESCWA region, and for this reason, the Regional Commission convened an Expert Group Meeting on “Compilation and Analysis of Energy Statistics and Indicators”, on 3-5 March 2009 at the UN House, Beirut.

The meeting was designed to improve


the capacity of users and producers of energy statistics in compiling, analyzing and disseminating energy statistics and indicators and prepare energy balances and accounts. It also sought to increase the harmonization in producing and disseminating data on energy statistics regionally and internationally. It was attended by experts from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Energy and Electricity, as well as other experts from regional and international agencies.

Better Data on Energy: How To

The general aim of the meeting was to provide further assistance to UN-ESCWA member countries in developing and im-

proving applied statistical skills, as well as promoting measures to improve the availability and reliability of energy statistics and the harmonization of definitions and methodologies.

Discussions revolved around the international recommendations of energy statistics, methodologies for compilation of oil, gas and electricity, renewable energy statistics; energy balances and accounts; energy indicators; and the analysis and dissemination of energy data.

Recommendations to conclude the meeting focused, among other issues, on conducting assistance missions to 

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More Arabic on our Screens

In an effort to develop the electronic content industry with a special focus on Arabic language content, the Information Technology Authority (ITA) in Oman, organized in cooperation with UN-ESCWA a one day national workshop in Muscat on the 3rd of March 2009 at the Crown Plaza hotel.

This aim of the meeting was to discuss the development of digital Arabic contents industry. Keynote speakers from Saudi Arabia, Google and the Arab Open University delivered presentations sharing their experiences and initiatives.

Representing UN-ESCWA,

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for development team leader at ICT Division, Nibal Idelbi, tackled the importance of the Arabic e-content and of the preservation of the Arabic language. She laid out the opportunities, priorities and trends in this industry and its requirements, touching on the 



More Arabic on our Screens (Cont.)

role UN-ESCWA is undertaking to support developing the e-content industry in the Arab world.

The meeting was attended by officials from governments, higher educational institutions and content developing firms. ITA aspires to increase Internet penetration within the country, which will require a significant increase in the value and volume of local content contributions from various stakeholders of the community. ■

The ITA is currently working on implementing e-content development projects. It encourages initiatives to design and develop specialized contents and encourages all social groups to benefit of the Internet.

Energy Reporting: (Cont.) Letting the Numbers Do the Talking

assess the needs of the member countries in preparing energy balances; developing a national database, catalogue of metadata and compilation of energy balances; and unifying concepts and definitions in energy statistics according to international standards.



UN-ESCWA organized the meeting in cooperation with the regional statistical co-operation programme between the European Union and Mediterranean countries (MEDSTAT), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs' Statistics Division (UNSD). ■

UN-ESCWA, UNSD, OPEC and UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), have organized a similar activity in 2004. Since then, the IEA has been leading the InterEnerStat meetings, where major regional and international organizations share experiences for further cooperation and harmonization in energy statistics. UNSD had performed a review process on the International Recommendations of Energy Statistics, and it is reviewing the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA), including the energy accounts, to become an international standard in 2012. MEDSTAT had developed a programme to assist Mediterranean countries in improving their statistics on energy.

Fisheries in Yemen and Oman

In Yemen, fisheries are important, including offshore trawl fishery, line and net fisheries. A significant sharkfin fishery has been reported in the southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. A rapid decline in shark stocks as well including turtles and dolphins is being observed.

In Oman, there is a significant abalone fishery operating from the southwest of the country. Abalone is only collected for two months of the year, with total yields of around 35-45 tons per year in the early 1990s. Recreational diving occurs in a few places but remains at low levels. Pollution from terrestrial sources, or from the very high volume of tanker traffic in the region, is minimal and not thought to be impacting reef communities. Oman is one of the few countries in the region to have moved towards an integrated system of coastal management.

Source: Compendium of Environment Statistics in the ESCWA Region, UN-ESCWA, 2007

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