



UN-ESCWA Weekly News

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System of Environmental–Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) for the Arab Gulf Countries



On 25-28 August 2008 and in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-ESCWA organized a training session on the “System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) for the Arab Gulf Countries” at the UN House, Beirut.

The session was organized through the UN Development Account project on “Strengthening National Capacities in Environment Statistics, Indicators and Accounts in support of progress toward achieving the internationally agreed development goals in the UN-ESCWA Region” and as a follow up to the expert group meeting on “The Production of Statistics on Natural Resources and Environment” held in Cairo on 5 - 7 June 2007 and to the sub-regional training session on SEEAW that was held in Amman on 10-13 March 2008.

The meeting was intended to provide a sound knowledge on the compilation and practical and operational use of the system of environmental-economic accounting for water (SEEAW) according to the international statistical standards developed by the UNSD in 2006. It focused on the concepts and use of the SEEAW water supply and on the use of tables in physical and monetary terms, emissions and assets accounts, the international recommendations for water statistics and the compilation of environment statistics at the national and international levels.

Participants in the meeting were representatives from the National Statistical Offices and the Water and Environment Authorities of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE and Kuwait), in addition to an expert from the Austrian Federal Environment

Agency and concerned representatives from Lebanon.

The meeting's recommendations underlined building capacities to obtain reliable, continuous and harmonious primary water data; undertaking comprehensive knowledge mapping effort to assess water and environment monitoring systems and related economic data collections; enhancing coordination among the national authorities concerned with environment, water and statistics; and collecting necessary information and developing an information system. Participants asked UN-ESCWA, UNEP and UNSD to provide technical support to the GCC countries on mechanisms for integrating components of environmental accounting, and provide GCC countries with the SEEAW standard tables in order to take into consideration the regional peculiarities of regional states. ■

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UN-ESCWA Publications



Study 1: National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region

Bulletin No: 27 of the National Accounts of the ESCWA Region contains available data and ESCWA estimates of the main annual national accounts at current and constant prices for the latest available periods. Data are mainly collected from response of member countries



UN-ESCWA Publications (Cont.)

to questionnaires compiled by the ESCWA Statistics Division, national and international publications and official sources, and national statistical office websites. The publication is divided into three chapters. Chapter I includes selected national accounts series converted in U.S. dollars aggregated for ESCWA, the Gulf Cooperation Council and countries with more diversified economies. Chapter II comprises consolidated national accounts for ESCWA member countries in

national currency at current prices; and Chapter III shows estimates by country at constant prices from the year 2000 in U.S. dollars.

Study 2: Compendium of Environment Statistics in the ESCWA Region

Compendium of Environment Statistics in the ESCWA Region seeks to set a framework for compiling environment statistics for the Western



Asia region undertaken by ESCWA in close collaboration with the UN Statistics Division and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and aims to

strengthen the capacity of member countries. Following a framework of environment indicators, it compiles existing environmental data, calculates indicators related to the environment, addresses gaps in data and priority issues, and builds on information to increase coverage in the data collection process. This Compendium is mainly intended to assist people in the fields of statistics, environment and policymaking to develop a system for collecting environment statistics. ■

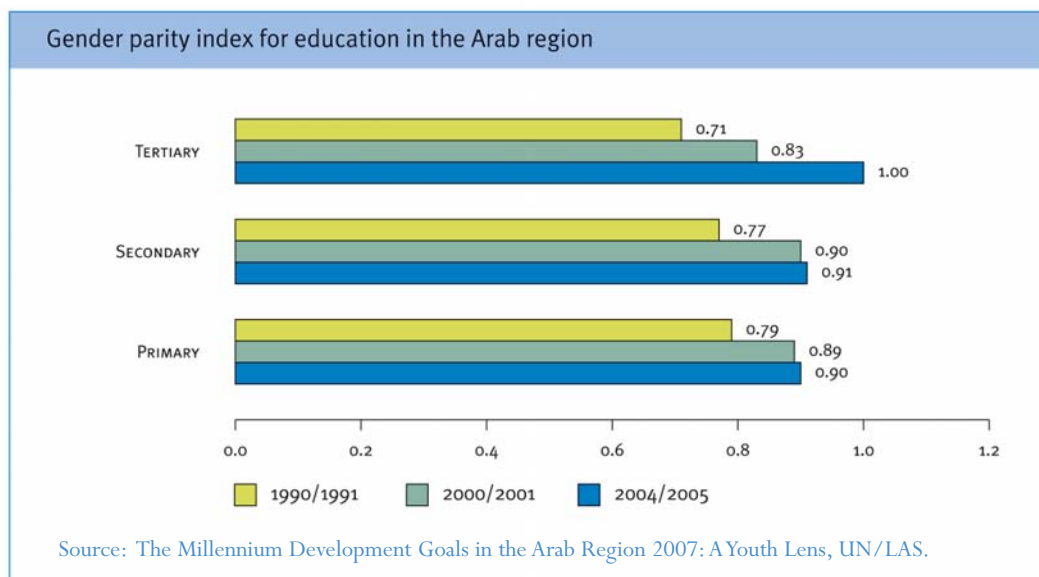
Facts and Figures: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Gender Parity Index for Education in the Arab Region

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) measured by the girl-to-boys gross enrolment ration has substantially increased at all levels of education over the period 1991-2005. The regional average of 1.00 indicates that, for the region as a whole, gender disparities in enrolment at the tertiary level have been eliminated, though large differences between sub-regions and individual countries

continue to exist. At the primary and secondary level, by contrast, full gender parity in enrolment rates has yet to be achieved, as indicated by the respective 2005 GPI values of 0.90 and 0.91. Progress has been broad-based, with each of the sub-regions moving towards gender parity at the different educational levels. ■



Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org