



UN-ESCWA

WEEKLY NEWS Wrap-up

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International Economic Classifications



Affairs' Statistics Division (DESA-SD), organized a joint workshop on "International Economic Classifications" on 10 - 13 December 2007 in Cairo.

The meeting focused on the recent revised activity and product classifications, namely International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev.4) and Central Product Classification (CPC Ver.2), as well as the current implementation and use of national classification of activity and product classifications and their relationship to the new ISIC and CPC.

In cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in Egypt and the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting, UN-ESCWA and the United Nations Department of Economics and Social

Strengthening the Skills of Demographers for Development

UN-ESCWA, in collaboration with the Office of Research Affairs of the United Arab Emirates University, organized a workshop on "Strengthening the skills of demographers and population experts in demographic analysis and its relationship with development", on 5 and 6 December 2007 in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.



The meeting was held in line with UN-ESCWA's continuous efforts in analyzing the demographic transition and its implications, to use them to maximize the social and economic returns. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the outline and basic components of a manual, which assists researchers in research and training centers and experts in the fields of population and demography in understanding the complex linkages between demographic and socio-economic changes and in identifying the opportunities offered by the demographic transition and depicting its onset and its social and economic returns. The meeting also symbolized the cornerstone for a new project on "the post-demographic transition era", which aims at activating the role of Arab research and academic centers in employing new demographic concepts, and encouraging them to create new methodologies that will improve demographic knowledge dissemination and its linkages with development.

Cyber Legislation for UN-ESCWA Countries



Countries", which presents a review of the status of regional and international cyber laws. The study's subject was the issue discussed by UN-ESCWA's peer consultative meeting held in Amman, Jordan, on 11-12 December 2007.

Cyberspace is a virtual world that is wide and varied; one that encompasses personal data, electronic transactions, intellectual property and related issues. To avoid chaos and to ensure fair play, this virtual world needs to be legislated. Legislation developed specifically to organize this virtual world is commonly defined as "cyber legislation".

UN-ESCWA prepared in 2007 a study entitled "Models for Cyber Legislation in ESCWA Member

Investment Agreements and Ways to Conduct them

UN-ESCWA organized, in cooperation with the Economic Development Board (EDB) in Bahrain, a training workshop on the negotiations involved in bilateral investment agreements on 2-9 December in Manama, Bahrain.

negotiations and the ways to conduct them.

The meeting also tackled FDI environment and its legal and non-legal aspects, as well as money transfer mechanisms and fields, in addition to issues concerning conflict resolution and investment agreements. The meeting also emphasized the adoption of a methodology to link the theoretical and practical sides by enabling participants to set up a comparative study of samples of bilateral investment agreements from around the world.

The aim of the meeting was to introduce the participants to the various essential concepts and techniques involved in the organization of foreign direct investment (FDI), to equip them with the right theoretical and practical knowledge of investments agreements



Arab Information Communication Technology Strategy



UN-ESCWA participated in the 12th meeting of the Arab Working Group (AWG) on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy, held on 25-27 November 2007 in Cairo.

During its 12th meeting, the AWG on ICT discussed the draft set of indicators for measuring the development of the Arab ICT Strategy; exchanged ideas about the methodology for the development of a plan of action for the Arab ICT Strategy; followed up on the implementation of Arab projects to build the information society; and discussed the selection criteria for regional

projects for the implementation of Arab ICT Strategy.

Participants also discussed the methodology for the development of an executive plan of action for the Arab ICT Strategy.

Participants agreed on an updated list of indicators pertaining to the strategy, which will be presented to the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers for approval at their meeting scheduled to be held in mid-2008.

Following up on Ageing Issues in Arab States

"The Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)" was the title of the seminar UN-ESCWA organized on 20 - 21 November 2007 at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Amman - Jordan.

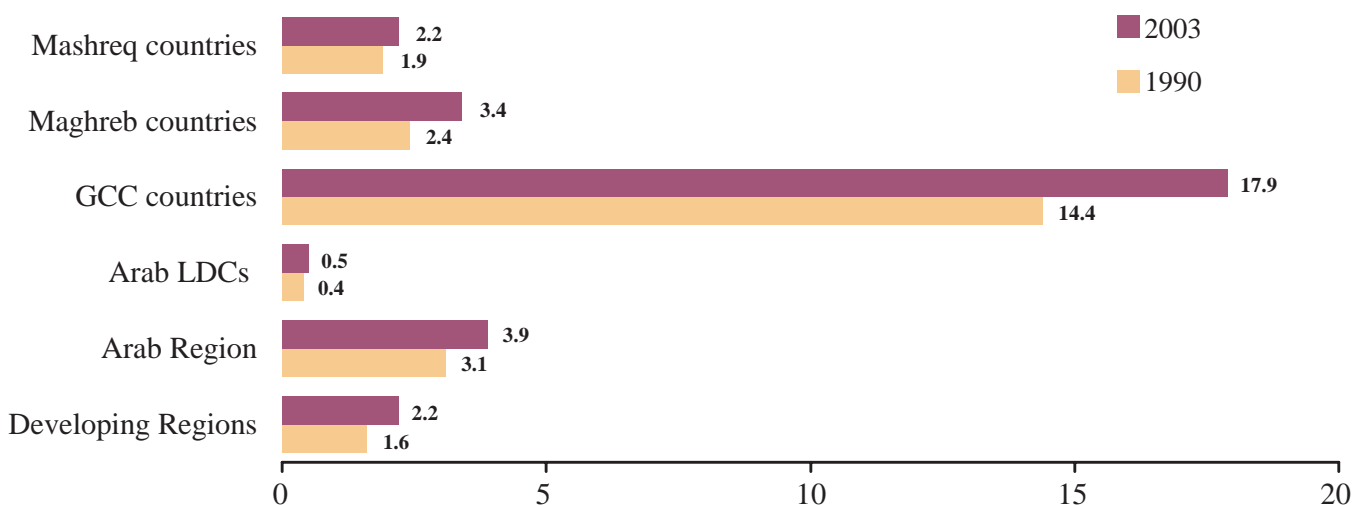
The meeting aimed at monitoring the progress made in implementing the MIPAA recommendations in the UN-ESCWA region, five years after its adoption. It was an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in promoting the cause of elder people.



Carbon Dioxide Emissions in the Arab Region

Total emissions in the region increased by 81% since 1990. Among the factors contributing to this rise is the 35% increase in the region's population. In addition, per capita carbon dioxide emissions increased as well, contributing to the increase in total emissions. On the other hand, Arab countries exerted serious efforts in implementing the Montréal Protocol. Since 2000, all subregions witnessed drops in total ozone-depleting substances, the most significant of which being in the Mashreq countries.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita (metric tons)



Source: UN Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals Indicators Database, <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>

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