UNITED NATIONS – NATIONS UNIES

`FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

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Incheon, Republic of Korea

BACKGROUND NOTE

Training Course on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy for the Asia-Pacific countries

Organised by

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

THE UNITED NATIONS ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (UN APCICT)

THE UN-ESCAP STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNSIAP)

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Background:

In recent years, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have gained an increasing role in national development strategies in many countries, which have put in place ICT policies in order to develop their information and knowledge societies. As a result, there is an increasing need for reliable data and indicators on the access and use of ICTs, and their impact on development. Such data and indicators help governments design and evaluate ICT policies and strategies, compare their ICT developments with those in other countries, and adopt solutions to reduce the digital divide. Recognising this increasing need for internationally comparable ICT statistics, the international community launched the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*, a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

UNCTAD, and in particular its ICT and E-business Branch, plays a leading role in the *Partnership*, which was launched during UNCTAD XI in Brazil, in 2004. Since then, and following the WSIS Geneva, UNCTAD has worked on developing internationally comparable ICT indicators, establishing an ICT global database, organizing workshops and seminars on ICT measurement, and helping countries through technical assistance projects. In carrying out these activities, UNCTAD cooperates closely with other members of the *Partnership*. UN ESCAP alongside three other UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA) are partners to this global initiative.

The UNCTAD Training Course on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy was developed in 2007, together with a methodological *Manual* on the same subject. The pilot delivery of the course took place in Bogota, Colombia, in December 2007. This training will be the first delivery in the Asian and Pacific region.

Objective of the course

The Training Course on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy aims at improving the capacity of official data producers in Asian and Pacific developing countries to produce internationally comparable statistics on ICT use in enterprises and the ICT producing sector, by:

- Providing data producers with background information on the measurement of ICT in the business sector, including the link between indicators and ICT policymaking and related international initiatives.

- Offering a methodological framework for carrying out ICT statistical work throughout the different phases of data collection, data processing and dissemination.

- Discussing the concepts related to measuring the information economy, the variables and indicators to be compiled, including a core list of ICT indicators in business and on the ICT sector, the classifications to be used and the design of statistical operations to investigate the use of ICT in enterprises and the ICT sector.

- Reviewing institutional aspects of the statistical process related to the production of ICT statistics, such as co-operation between data providers and users, and co-ordination among data producers.

Participation

The training course is designed for the participation of 25 staff of National Statistics Offices and other national institutions in charge of the collection and production of official statistics on the information economy. Given its technical nature, participants should have a background in statistical or economics training. The course will be hosted by the UN APCICT in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Structure of the course

The course, which is based on the UNCTAD *TrainForTrade* methodology, consists of five modules:

Module 1: Understanding concepts and definitions of ICT indicators
Module 2: Developing an ICT data collection strategy
Module 3: Designing an ICT in business survey
Module 4: Processing ICT survey data
Module 5: Disseminating ICT data

The course is designed to be delivered over five days. Each module will feature a review of the knowledge acquired through practical exercises (individual or in group). At the end of each module, participants will be asked to complete a test and a short evaluation sheet. The course is expected to trigger discussions and opportunities for interactions between participants, who will be expected to contribute actively. A detailed programme for the course will be sent to participants at a later stage.

Instructors

Mr. José Luis Cervera Ferri, consultant to UNCTAD and expert on ICT statistics, will be the principal instructor of the course. Staff members of the three agencies will be present to facilitate the training.

Training material

The course is based on the UNCTAD *Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy*, which is the main reference document. An electronic copy of the *Manual* is available at http://measuring-ict.unctad.org/. Participants will be expected to read the material contained in the *Manual*, hardcopies of which will be distributed at the training. The Instructor will deliver the course with the support of presentation slides and participants will receive various additional training materials to follow the course and carry out exercises.

Certificates

Participants are expected to attend all the sessions of the course and pass the tests in order to obtain the course certificates, which will be delivered at the end of the course.