



ICP Monthly Updates

February, 2011

The Global Office, The World Bank

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Governance

Executive Board

The fourth meeting of the ICP 2011 Executive Board took place on February 20, 2011, at the Millennium UN Plata Hotel in New York City. The meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of the 2011 ICP and focused mainly on the participation of singleton economies, the risks of belated data collection in economies under special circumstances, the overall number of economies [200] enlisted in the program, the coordination of the Pacific exercise by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the promising number of countries that have started collecting prices, the implementation of national accounts activities in the ICP, and the financial status of the program. The Board also discussed the proposed ICP Data Access Principles. It was decided that the next Executive Board meeting will take place in October 2011, as a full-day meeting.

UN Statistical Commission

The agenda of the 42nd session of the UN Statistical Commission held in New York, from February 22-25, 2011, included an item on the ICP. The Statistical Commission welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and noted

with satisfaction of the progress thus far. It expressed its appreciation to all the partners who voiced their support to the International Comparison Programme and particularly Regional Coordinators for providing additional training to the countries as well as financial support. It further noted that ICP is a major program with tremendous implication for the countries, especially in developing their price collection and computation capability

Regional Activities

Africa

With the secession of South Sudan, decisions are to be made whether they will participate in this round or in the next.

Asia and Pacific

From February 28, 2011, a weeklong National ICP Workshop for China started in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China. The workshop will focus on data collection for the Global Core List items for ICP Household Consumption component and training on the ICP-Kit. the Software for ICP 2011.

LAC

The pilot survey for the Machinery and Equipment has started in Brazil, Colombia, and Costa Rica.

Argentina will not be participating in this round as they have missed activities already took place that were necessary for ensuring full participation.

Western Asia

Lebanon officially withdrew from the program due to lack in resources, with a slim possibility of joining again.

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Special Participation Issues

Pacific Islands

It was mentioned during the Executive Board that the number of economies participating in the Pacific Islands is yet to be fixed due to varying size of economies in the region.

Methodology

Machinery and Equipment

LAC hired an expert as a consultant who would carry out the pilot survey on the Machinery and Equipment, and the work has already started. The Global Office is still identifying experts in other regions for this extended pilot survey.

Data Requirement and Access

Guiding Principles for Data Access submitted to and reviewed by the Executive Board at their meeting on February 20, 2011. The Global Office will review the current version of the data access principles against the recommendations and suggestions set forth in the meeting, and by June 2011, a new version of principles and a very first draft of procedures will be prepared and circulated to the Board for written comments.

Software Development and Deployment

New versions of the ICP KIT for country and regional modules were released and distributed to regional coordinators by the Global Office on February 24, 2011.

National Accounts

The first meeting of the 2011 ICP National Accounts Working Group (INAG) was held on February 16-17, 2011, at the World Bank, Washington DC. The purpose of the INAG is to support the Global Office in ensuring that GDP expenditures compiled by the countries participating in the current round of ICP comply with the SNA-93 and are as comparable as possible across the countries.



The first INAG meeting, Washington DC (Feb. 2011)

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