



### ICP at the United Nations Statistical Commission

The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) took place on March 7-10, 2017 in New York. The UNSC discussed the [World Bank report](#) describing the global and regional efforts to launch the 2017 comparison cycle and establish the ICP as a permanent program.

The Commission appreciated the efforts of the agencies implementing the ICP and expressed its satisfaction with the governance, technical, capacity building, advocacy and funding activities undertaken thus far. The Commission also endorsed the governance framework and the composition of the Governing Board. It urged participating countries to integrate and harmonize ICP activities within their regular work program to ensure a sustainable and a truly permanent program and stressed the need for promoting the use of ICP data for policy making. [Session proceedings](#) and [live recordings](#) are available online.



*ICP at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNSC, March 2017*

Caribbean (UNECLAC). Representatives from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) also attended as observers.

The participants discussed the recent governance and operational activities, finalization of operational materials for the ICP 2017 cycle, as well as the latest knowledge and outreach materials. Documents, agenda and minutes can be found [online](#).

the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) attended the meeting.

The RAB discussed its composition, advisory roles and responsibilities for implementing the regional ICP in line with global guidelines, while recognizing the statistical capacity and data availability in the region.

The first meeting of the Heads of National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) was also organized back-to-back with the RAB meeting on January 11, 2017 in Hanoi.

Heads of NIAs from 20 economies, and representatives from the institutional members mentioned above attended the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to provide an overview of the ICP's recent global developments and the work plan in its transition to become a permanent program.

### ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group Meeting

The third meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held in New York on March 5, 2017, in conjunction with the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNSC. The main objectives of the meeting were to provide updates on regional and global ICP activities and related risk assessments, and to plan for the next IACG meeting.

The meeting was organized and chaired by the World Bank Global ICP Unit. Participants included the representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCAP), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the

### ICP - Asia and the Pacific Regional Advisory Board and Heads of National Implementing Agencies meetings

The first meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Advisory Board (RAB) for the 2017 cycle of the ICP was held on January 11, 2017 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Heads of seven member economies of the RAB and institutional members including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), ADB,



*ICP-Asia and the Pacific Regional Advisory Board Meeting, January 2017*

### ICP – Asia and the Pacific Regional Workshop

The Regional Training and Technical Evaluation Workshop on the ICP 2017 cycle in Asia and the Pacific was held on February 27-28, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was organized by the ADB and attended by statisticians from NIAs and representatives from the ADB and the World Bank Global ICP Unit. The workshop reviewed the price data from the final quarter of 2016 for the 2016 Asian PPP Update exercise. The workshop also reviewed implementation guidelines for the ICP 2017 cycle, including governance framework, institutional arrangements, funding, and operational materials including household consumption item list and survey frameworks.



*ICP-Asia and the Pacific Regional Workshop, February 2017*

### ICP - Africa Regional Workshop

The Regional Technical Workshop on the ICP 2017 cycle in Africa was held on January 30-February 3, 2017 in Lusaka, Zambia. The workshop was jointly organized by the AfDB and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Secretariat. Participants included price statisticians and national accountants from 49 African countries conducting ICP activities. Representatives from sub-regional organizations and statistical training centers in Africa, and staff from the AfDB and the World Bank Global ICP Unit also attended.

The workshop assessed country readiness for the ICP 2017 cycle and its implementation in Africa. Participants were briefed on the ICP approach and framework. They conducted hands-on trainings on operational materials for the ICP 2017 cycle and reviewed available data sources for PPP time-series.



*ICP-Africa Regional Workshop, January-February 2017*

### ICP - Western Asia Regional Workshop

The Regional Validation Workshop on Price Data for the 2016 PPP Estimates in Western Asia was held on February 6-10, 2017 in Cairo, Egypt. The workshop was organized by the UNESCWA. Participants included representatives from national statistical agencies from 9 member countries, the UNESCWA and the World Bank Global ICP Unit. Participants conducted inter-country validation of the price data from the third quarter of 2016 for household consumption, housing rentals, government and gross fixed capital formation. They also discussed the schedule of finalization and release of regional PPPs for 2014-2016.



*ICP-Western Asia Regional Workshop,  
February 2017*

### The Academy of International Comparison in China

The Academy of International Comparison was launched on January 7, 2017 during the Academic Symposium on International Comparison, which took place at Beijing Normal University, China. The Academy is co-founded by China's National Bureau of Statistics and Beijing Normal University in recognition of the significance of China's participation in the ICP. The Academy aims to become a major international cooperation platform and training base for economies participating in the ICP. The original announcement in Chinese can be found [here](#).



*The Academy of International Comparison, China, January 2017*

## Meetings on the Participation of Georgia and Ukraine in the ICP

Meetings between Eurostat and [Georgia \(February 6-9, 2017\)](#) and Ukraine (February 13-16, 2017) were held to discuss both economies' participation in the ICP 2017 cycle through linking with the Eurostat-OECD PPP program. The discussions focused on the timing, coverage and frequency of data collection, and on the methodology to be applied.



Meeting on the Participation of Ukraine, February 2017

## Sub-national PPPs in India

A training workshop on sub-national PPPs in India was held on February 19-22, 2017 in Delhi, India. The training was provided to India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation staff, jointly by the ADB and the World Bank Global ICP Unit representatives. The training included preparing India's CPI input data, explaining basic methods, and installing sub-national PPP computation software to create a sound base for sub-national PPP compilation.

## Global Poverty and ICP/PPP Workshop

An internal workshop on Global Poverty and ICP/PPP, was organized by the World Bank on February, 15, 2017 in Washington DC.

The workshop discussed the latest ICP results and methodology, as well as current and future uses of PPPs for measuring global poverty.

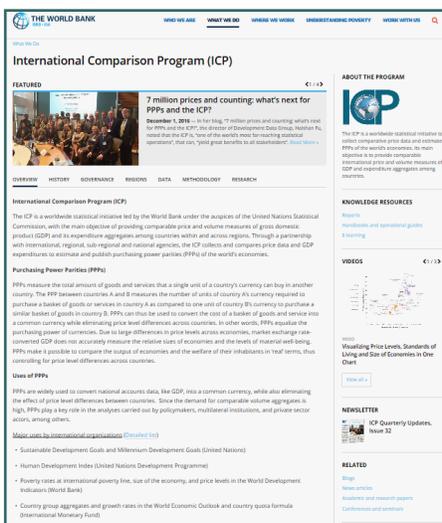


Global Poverty and ICP/PPP Workshop, February 2017

## New ICP Website

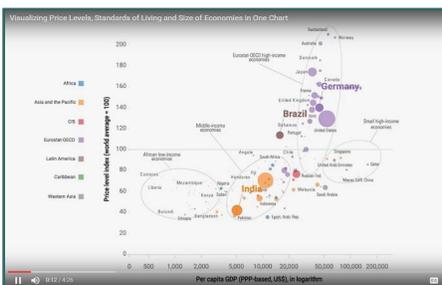
As a part of its on-going efforts to promote the use of PPPs and to have users utilize the knowledge gained from the program, the World Bank Global ICP Unit recently launched a new ICP website.

The [new website](#) is a repository of ICP knowledge that guides users through all program aspects including: an overview of the program and its history, results and their uses, governance, methodology and research agenda. The site also provides knowledge resources such as ICP reports, guides, videos, newsletters, and links to news articles, blogs and academic papers using ICP data and results. A [recent blog](#) highlights the release of the website.



## New ICP Video Tutorial

A [new ICP video tutorial](#) was released by the World Bank Global ICP Unit. The video provides a tutorial to help understand the multidimensional comparison between GDP, GDP per capita, and price levels of the world economies based on the ICP 2011 results. It is a sequel to the [first ICP video tutorial](#) that explained the structure of the world economy and the distribution of its population based on the ICP results.



## Memoir by Alan Heston, Founder of the ICP

A new memoir by one of the founders of the ICP, Alan Heston, was recently released. It maps the remarkable journey of the ICP from its inception and early meetings through the current stage of the program. Heston masterfully illustrates the magnitude and importance of this intellectual undertaking. The first draft of the memoir and accompanying photos can be found [here](#).



## PPP in the Media

[The Long View: How will the global economic order change by 2050?](#), PwC.

[Fewer, but still with us: The world has made great progress in eradicating extreme poverty](#), The Economist.

## PPP in Research

[Distribution as Expenditure](#), Alexis Antoniadis, Georgetown University, Jan. 2017.

[The Influence of Income and Prices on Global Dietary Patterns by Country, Age, and Gender](#), Andrew Muhammad, Anna D'Souza, Birgit Meade, Renata Micha, and Dariush Mozaffarian, United States Department of Agriculture, Feb. 2017.

[Africa's Cities: Opening Doors to the World](#), Somik Vinay Lall, J. Vernon Henderson and Anthony J. Venables, The World Bank, Feb. 2017.

## International Comparison Program (ICP)

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