

SECOND GCC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

MUSCAT, OMAN

30 JUNE – JULY 3, 2019

Background

This is the Second Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) organized by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (“GCC-Stat”).

The first Regional Workshop on IMTS was organized jointly by the GCC-Stat and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on February 7-10, 2016 in Muscat, Oman. More information on this first workshop is available only from the GCC-Stat website and the UNSD website at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2016/muscat/default.asp>.

In follow-up the recommendations of the first Regional Workshop on IMTS of February 7-10, 2016 in Muscat, Oman, the main goals of this second workshop on IMTS are to review the practices in the compilation of merchandise trade statistics and the implementation in the Member States of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and State of Kuwait to implement the most recent internationally agreed recommendations on IMTS and to use the best possible data sources and improve their statistical compilation processes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOPS

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- to guide participants on how to better use the internationally available guidance, especially the IMTS Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010¹) and the related Compilers Manual (IMTS 2010-CM²)
- to define best possible data sources, setting up adequate (or enforcing existing) collection systems, and improving statistical production processes;
- to provide training and guidance to participants on how to improve their trade data in line with the most up-to-date international standards, classifications and codes (HS-2017³ and 2015 GCC Customs Procedures⁴);
- to emphasize the need and benefits for GCC all countries to implement IMF's⁵ Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) requirements for Merchandise Trade Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness;
- to raise awareness of participants on SDMX-IMTS artifacts including data structure, concepts and code lists; and in using latest SDMX tools to map their trade database in to SDMX-IMTS output.

¹ International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010)

² International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual, Revision 1. (IMTS 2010-CM)

³ HS Nomenclature 2017 Edition: Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of 2017 of the World Customs Organisation (WCO)

⁴ Unified Guide for Customs Procedures at First Points of Entry into the GCC Member States, 2015

⁵ International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

- to introduce Data Quality Assessment Framework on Trade Statistics and the respective newly revised GCC questionnaire; to train the countries on respective on techniques to assess and improve the quality of trade data.

The discussion is to include theoretical as well as practical issues relating to the implementation of the IMTS 2010, and Compilers Manual (IMTS-CM) under the following topics:

1. Implementing IMTS 2010
2. Commodity classifications
3. Partner country and rules of origin.
4. Mirror statistics
5. Data quality and metadata
6. Data sources
7. Customs procedures and IMTS.
8. Data compilation
9. Exports and imports trade indices
10. Trade SDMX
11. Data dissemination
12. Other Miscellaneous

The workshop will include: presentations on conceptual and methodological issues, country practices, group discussions, as well as a field trip to a national customs administration (NCA).

PARTICIPANTS

1. The target group of participants include compilers of merchandise trade statistics from national statistics centers (NSCs); and
2. their counterparts from the respective National Customs Administrations (NDAs); and also
3. Balance of payments compilers from the Monetary authorities and central banks for GCC member countries;

OTHER

Organizer

The Workshop is organized by the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Centre (GCC-Stat);

Other contributors and invitees

GCC Customs Union (GCC-CU);

International Monetary Fund, Statistics Department (IMF-STA)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

World Customs Organization (WCO).

Place, Dates and Venue

Muscat – Sultanate of Oman, from June 23-26, 2019.

GCC Statistical Center (GCC-STAT)

Al Maardih St., 677 - 2nd Floor, Behind Ministry of Education
Murtafa'at Al Matar, Al Seeb, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Contact information

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Day 1: Sunday, 30 June 2019

08:00 - 08:30	REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPANTS	Presenter/Facilitator
08:30 - 09:15	OPENING SESSION	
15 minutes	✚ Opening remarks	HE Sabir Al-Harbi
15 minutes	✚ Adoption of provisional agenda and admin matters	Chairperson, NCSI
15 minutes	✚ GCC-Stat activities in the area of IMTS, purpose of the WS	Ahmed Al Farid
9:15 – 9:30	Group Photo	Communications
09:30- 10:30	Session 1: IMPLEMENTING IMTS 2010	
15 minutes	1) IMTS 2010 recommendations and encouragements, - Overview - Scope and time of recording - Valuation	Bulent Tungul
30 minutes	2) Trade system and movement of goods - Statistical territory and its elements - Moving towards General Trade System	Bulent Tungul
15 minutes	3) IMTS 2010 Compilers Manual	Habibur Khan
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 - 11:30	Session 2: COMMODITY CLASSIFICATIONS	
30 minutes	1) Harmonized System 2017 (HS-2017) based GCC Tariff codes	Salah Buali
15 minutes	2) Quantity Measurement	Salah Buali
11:30 - 12:15	Session 2: COMMODITY CLASSIFICATIONS (Continued)	
15 minutes	3) SITC, BEC, CPC, ISIC and other product classifications	Faouzi Tarkhani
15 minutes	4) Conversion and correspondence tables from GCC Tariff codes to SITC, BEC, CPC, ISIC and other product class-s	Faouzi Tarkhani
15 minutes	✚ Round table discussion:	Chairperson, NCSI
12:15 – 13:30	Pray Time and Lunch Break	
13:30 - 14:30	Session 3: PARTNER COUNTRY AND RULES OF ORIGIN	
25 minutes	1) Partner Country, - First partner country. - Second partner country (country of consignment).	Bulent Tungul
5 minutes	2) Mode of Transport	Bulent Tungul
15 minutes	3) Rules of Origin	Bulent Tungul
13:30 - 15:00	Session 3: PARTNER COUNTRY (continued)	
15 minutes	✚ Country presentations: a) Member state (to be determined)	To be determined
15 minutes	✚ Round table discussion:	Chairperson, NCSI

Day 2: Monday, 1 July 2019

08:30 – 9:15 15 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 5: MIRROR STATISTICS 1) Goals of reconciliation studies, Intra-GCC reconciled data 2) Basic procedures for bilateral reconciliation studies 3) Limitations of mirror statistics and reasons for differences	Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul
09:15 - 10:00 15 minutes 30 minutes	Session 4: MIRROR STATISTICS (Continued) 🚩 Intra-GCC trade data reconciliation exercise 🚩 Round table discussion	Salah Buali Chairperson, NCSI
10:00 - 10:45 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 5: DATA QUALITY AND METADATA 1) Overview of data quality framework 2) Quality reporting	Faouzi Tarkhani Faouzi Tarkhani
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 - 10:30 15minutes 15 minutes	Session 5: DATA QUALITY AND METADATA (continued) 3) Pre-workshop questionnaires - summary presentation 🚩 Round table discussion	Tigran Terlemezian Chairperson, NCSI
11:30 - 12:15 30 minutes 15 minutes	Session 5: DATA QUALITY AND METADATA (continued) 4) Indicators of quality for GCC countries: New Revised GCC Data Quality of FTS questionnaire 5) Metadata on international merchandise trade statistics	Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul
12:15 – 13:30	Pray Time and Lunch Break Presentation of country experiences- result of pre-workshop questionnaire:	
13:30 - 14:30 15 minutes 30 minutes 15 minutes	Session 6: DATA SOURCES 1) Customs declarations and related Customs records. 2) Non-customs data sources and their uses a) Oil and Gas b) Electricity c) Goods through postal and courier services 3) Enterprise and Other Surveys	Salah Buali Salah Buali Bulent Tungul
14:30 - 15:00	Session 6: DATA SOURCES (continued)	
	🚩 Country presentations:	
15 minutes	a) Member state (to be determined)	To be determined
15 minutes	🚩 Round table discussion	Chairperson, NCSI

Day 3: Tuesday, 2 July 2019

08:30 - 09:15 30 minutes 15 minutes	Session 7: CUSTOMS PROCEDURES (CPs) AND IMTS 1) 2015 GCC Unified Code for Customs Procedures 2) Correlation from CPs to statistical procedures	Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul
09:15 - 9:45 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 7: CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND IMTS (Continued) ✚ Country presentations: a) Member state (to be determined) ✚ Round table discussion	To be determined Chairperson, NCSI
9:45 - 10:30 10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes	Session 8: DATA COMPILATION 1) Institutional Arrangements 2) Data collection with respect to different elements of statistical territory (free zones, offshore, and alike). 3) Data compilation in a Customs Union 4) Integration of data for different sources	Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul
10:30 - 10:45	Session 8: DATA COMPILATION (continued) 5) Estimation of Missing Data on Trade Statistics	Tigran Terlemezian
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 - 11:45 15 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 8: DATA COMPILATION (continued) 6) Common mistakes in registering customs data 7) Data reviewing and detecting errors in customs data 8) Data cleaning prior the release	Salah Buali Salah Buali Salah Buali
11:45 - 12:15	Session 8: DATA COMPILATION (continued) ✚ Country presentations: a) Member state (to be determined) ✚ Round table discussion	To be determined Chairperson, NCSI
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Pray Time and Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 - 14:30 15 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 9: EXPORTS AND IMPORTS TRADE INDICES 1) Unit Value Indices (UVI) 2) Establishment survey-based price indices 3) Hybrid approach	Bulent Tungul Kari Manninen Bulent Tungul
14:15 - 15:00 15 minutes 30 minutes	Session 9: X&M TRADE INDICES (Continued) ✚ Country presentations: a) Member state (to be determined) ✚ Round table discussion	To be determined Chairperson, NCSI

Day 4: Wednesday, 3 July 2019

8:30 - 9:30 20 minutes 20 minutes 20 minutes	Session 10: TRADE SDMX 1) Overview of SDMX-IMTS 2) SDMX-IMTS artifacts: data structure definition and code lists 3) Mapping from national lists to SDMX code list	UNSD Habibur Khan
9:30 - 10:30 30 minutes 30 minutes	Session 10: TRADE SDMX - DEMO - Data preparation - Finalize mapping on partner countries, mode of transports, customs procedure codes, trade quantity units, etc.	UNSD Habibur Khan
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45 - 11:15 15 minutes	Session 10: TRADE SDMX – DEMO (Continued) 🚦 Mapping assistant, “Test Client” tool, “SDMX web services”	UNSD Habibur Khan
11:15 - 12:00 10 minutes 10 minutes 25 minutes	Session 11: DATA DISSEMINATION 1) Statistical Confidentiality 2) Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness. 3) Data Revision, Dissemination Strategy	Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul Bulent Tungul
12:00 - 12:15 15 minutes	Session 11: DATA DISSEMINATION (Continued) 🚦 Round table discussion	Chairperson, NCSI
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Pray Time and Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 - 14:30 30 minutes 30 minutes	WRAP-UP SESSION: Conclusion of the Workshop 1) RT Discussion: Implementing IMTS 2010: Lessons Learned 2) Conclusions and Recommendations:	GASat or Kuwait
14:30 - 15:00 15 minutes 15 minutes	WRAP-UP SESSION (Continued): WS Evaluation and Other 3) Evaluation of the workshop 4) Any other business	Chairperson, NCSI Chairperson, NCSI

Data Quality to be replaced by:

10:00 - 10:30 15 minutes 15 minutes	Session 11: INTEGRATING TRADE & BUSINESS STATISTICS 1) Integrating Trade and Business Statistics 2) Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC)	Tigran Terlemezian Tigran Terlemezian
12:00 - 12:15 15 minutes	Session 11: Integrating Trade & Business Statistics (Continued) 🚦 Round table discussion	Chairperson, NCSI