

SM embarks on a training programme as from May 2014

SM puts at the forefront a training programme for its Statistical Officers (SOs) to build capacity and familiarise them with the functions of the different Statistical Units.



While this in-house training aims at helping new SOs onboarding to hit the ground running, it also provides existing staff an insight for personal growth and development, and adds weight in building their careers. In essence, SM encourages empowerment of staff that strongly lines up with its vision to be a key provider of world-class statistical information. By empowering them, SOs should feel confident and motivated to perform their tasks and attend to end-users' requests in a professional manner.

A panoply of interesting subject areas has been identified and included in the training programme 2014-15. The training materials will soon be made available on StatsNet (intranet of SM).

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) holds an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Supply and Use Tables (SUTs)

The ECA in collaboration with Statistics Mauritius (SM) organised an EGM on SUTs from 2 to 6 June 2014 at Le Méridien Hotel, Mauritius.



The main purpose was:

- to share and discuss African countries' experience and best practices in compiling SUTs; and
- to finalize the chapters of the "*Handbook on Supply and Use Tables*".

It is well known that the System of National Accounts (SNA) is the backbone of various international standards for economic and industrial statistics. National accounts statistics are key indicators for describing the national economy and its interactions with the rest of the world. SUT is recommended as a part of the minimum requirement data set and the first step in the compilation of national accounts. It focuses on the processes of production and use of individual goods and services and has many advantages for economic analysis, policy making,

statistical cross-check and consistency. In this light, ECA initiated the preparation of the handbook. The latter is expected to be an effective reference material for strengthening the capacity of African countries in compiling timely and quality national accounts.

Implementation of Staff Rotation Policy (SRP)

In 2012, Statistics Mauritius came up with a SRP which aims at providing staff with opportunities to work in different areas of the office, expand their technical skills and their understanding of the organisation as well as to overcome potential job boredom, particularly for those who have worked in one unit for a long period of time. The implementation of the SRP has been entrusted to a Staff Rotation Committee (SRC) which makes appropriate recommendations to the Director.

For the year 2014, the SRC met four times. In order not to disrupt the work of the office, the SRC considered the case of Statistical Officers (SOs) who have worked ten years or more in one Unit. Based on the recommendations of the SRC, changes in posting of ten SOs are being effected on a phase-wise basis.

SM receives technical assistance on Ecosystem/Natural Capital Accounting (ENCA) from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

After two missions, the first one on data collection and the second one on producing maps for a preliminary report on ENCA, Mr. Jean Louis Weber, Consultant on Environment-Economic Accounting, fielded his third mission from 5 to 17 May 2014 in Mauritius.

The purpose of the third mission was, amongst others, to review and upgrade the preliminary report. In this context, the Consultant visited some stakeholders to enlist their cooperation in providing additional data and finalised the report. During the process, the Consultant did some knowledge transfer to SM staff. The final report will be published by the IOC.

To recap, the implementation of ENCA in Mauritius follows a Government's decision stemming from the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development held in Brazil in 2012 and technical assistance received was funded by the IOC under the ISLANDS Project.