

SM receives technical assistance from IMF in view of moving from SDDS to SDDS Plus



SM regularly compiles and publishes the sequence of accounts as recommended by the UN System of National Accounts up to the Capital Account. The next ones in the sequence are Financial Accounts (FA) and Balance Sheets (BS). The FA records transactions that involve financial assets and liabilities; whereas the BS gives the value of assets and liabilities owned at a particular point in time.

Besides being part of SM's strategy to consolidate its National Accounts and adopt international standards, the compilation of the FA and BS is a requirement for adhering to SDDS Plus, a standard which Mauritius is aiming to achieve by 2019.

In this context, Mr Segismundo Fassler from the IMF visited SM from 15 to 21 April 2015, during which mission he advised on data sources that may be used for the compilation of the accounts, and invited different stakeholders to cooperate in data sharing.

Presentation on "Pension Funds" by Financial Services Commission (FSC) and AoN Hewitt Ltd

With a view of sharing information on some issues of concern among different stakeholders, SM upon the advice of the Statistics Board organised a presentation on "Pension Funds" on 16 April 2015.

Ms. Trisha Dulloo, Lead Examiner at FSC, and Mr. Bernard Yen, Managing Director of AoN Hewitt Ltd, delivered their presentation by laying the foundations of the Mauritius Pension System (MPS) which is composed of five pillars: (i) the Basic Retirement Pensions, (ii) the National Pensions Fund, (iii) the National Savings Fund, (iv) Private Pension Schemes and (v) family/household support or other social security benefits. In consonance with the shift from a Defined Benefit system towards a Defined Contribution system, the presenters also touched upon the legal aspects and statutory requirements of the MPS.

At the level of SM, this presentation was reckoned as highly beneficial as it shed light to better understanding the MPS, hence enabling identification of data needs and methodology to be adopted.

SM participates in the Regional Training workshop and Forum of Experts on SEEA-EEA

Mauritius is currently participating in the project "Advancing the System of Environmental Economic Accounting - Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA)" which is supported by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The project on SEEA-EEA aims at reviewing data availability and measurement practices, and developing plans for advancing Ecosystem Accounting in pilot countries.

SM participated in a regional training on SEEA-EEA held from 13 to 16 April 2015 in Chile. The purpose of this training was to support countries to set up a strategy and a work plan for the implementation of the SEEA-EEA, and help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs.

On that same score, SM joined in a Forum of Experts on the SEEA-EEA from 28-30 April 2015 in New York, USA with the main objective of bringing together experts, practitioners and statisticians to discuss the draft guidance document that has been developed as part of the project to complement the SEEA-EEA. The guidance document is expected to provide practical guidance for countries wanting to start testing the SEEA-EEA.

Reconstitution of the Statistics Board

Established since September 2011 under Section 23 of the Statistics Act 2000 (amended), the Statistics Board is an independent body composed of high-level professionals specifically selected to improve the professional environment within which the National Statistical System is operating, and to ensure that the profile of Official Statistics is commensurate with their role in national development.

Recently reconstituted for a period of three years, the Board is now under the chairmanship of Mrs. Marie Jennifer Jean-Louis, and assisted by the following Board members: Mr Patrick Yip, Mr Jitendra Nathsingh Bissessur, Mr Raj Makoond, Mrs Dheemun Devi Manraj, Dr Naushad Ali Mamode Khan and Ms Li Fa Cheung Kai Suet.

SM would like to thank the Chairperson and members of the previous Board for their commitment and support provided throughout their tenure.