

Regional Workshops in Fiscal Year 2017

Banking Supervision



METAC-CEF Workshop on IIFS-November 2016

METAC and the IMF's Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) organized jointly a regional workshop on "Necessary Infrastructure for Effective Supervision of Institutions Offering Islamic Financial Services (IIFS)," in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The workshop attracted directors, deputy directors, and senior bank supervisors from Arab League countries, and covered a number of thematic topics that are necessary for establishing an efficient banking supervision regime, including: (i) methodologies and approaches for implementing core principles for regulation and supervision of IIFS, (ii) risk-based supervision and key risks in IIFS, (iii) governance and board of directors' oversight of IIFS, (iv) eligible capital and Shariah-compliant instruments, (v) determination of Alpha in measuring capital adequacy of IIFS, (vi) key elements in the supervisory review process, and (vii) stress testing as an essential tool for assessing capital. Participants acquired practical methods to identify and measure risks in IIFS. They shared experiences on how IIFS in their jurisdictions are supervised, and provided case studies about the identification of key risks in IIFS and measuring capital adequacy ratio under stressed situations.

Public Financial Management

Frameworks for the Management of Fiscal Risks (January 23-26)

METAC and CEF organized jointly a regional workshop on “Frameworks for the Management of Fiscal Risks”, in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The workshop brought together 26 senior managers and technical staff from the ministries of finance and central banks of 13 countries in the region¹ to share ideas and experiences in addressing fiscal risks, with a view to enhance their capacity to manage these risks, which, in turn could help make the region’s public finances more robust. Building on a set of analytical tools and best practices designed by the IMF to help policy makers understand and manage fiscal risks, the workshop provided participants with a structured conceptual overview of fiscal risks, their sources, and principles and mechanisms for managing them. The workshop also provided a forum for participants to discuss and exchange views on related issues and the challenges they encounter in their respective jurisdictions.



*Regional workshop on “Frameworks for the Management of Fiscal Risks”, Kuwait
January 23-26, 2017*

¹ Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Tunisia, and West Bank and Gaza.

Revenue Administration



TADAT Workshop in Jordan, March 2017

METAC organized a regional workshop on the recently developed “Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool “(TADAT)”in Amman, Jordan from March 27-30, 2017. TADAT is a relatively new comprehensive but administrable instrument to help governments gauge the performance of their tax administrations and identify priority reforms. It is designed to deliver an objective and standardized assessment of the most critical outcomes of any country’s system of tax administration. Given the comprehensive nature of TADAT, and the volume of material to be covered, a series of three workshops have been planned, with the subsequent two workshops to be delivered in FY18. The current workshop focused on four performance TADAT outcome areas: (i) Integrity of the Registered Taxpayer Base; (ii) Supporting Voluntary Compliance; (iii) Timely Filing of Tax Declarations; (iv) Timely Payment of Taxes. It attracted 20 directors, deputy directors, and senior officials from eight member countries, and provided the participants with a detailed awareness session on the TADAT process, with a strong emphasis on the internationally recognized good practices espoused in the TADAT methodology. Examples were also given of practical application of these practices to demonstrate how they add to better tax administration. Representatives from both USAID and the European Union also attended the workshop and each provided a presentation on aspects of the above four performance outcome areas to support participants understanding of the importance of adopting good practices.

Statistics

Real Sector Statistics (November 27–December 1, March 13-16)

METAC and the IMF's STA held a workshop on "Price Index Compilation Issues" in Amman, Jordan. The workshop addressed specific price statistics compilation issues of participating countries. International standards and best practices were discussed regarding the compilation and dissemination of price indexes. The interactive workshop facilitated extensive discussions and included practical exercises. In a final wrap-up session, the 21 participants from 11 countries attending the workshop were given the opportunity to identify potential areas for future METAC TA support in their countries.

The countries represented in the workshop were: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, and WBG.



*Regional workshop on "Price Index Compilation Issues", Jordan
November 27 – December 1, 2016*

METAC, in cooperation with the IMF project on Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative (EDDI, Phase 2), organized a four-day workshop on national accounts compilation issues in Amman, Jordan. 28 participants from 10 METAC countries (Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, and WBG), as well as five participants from Pakistan (as part of the IMF EDDI project) attended the workshop. The workshop focused on issues related to changes of benchmark year, covering all basic conceptual and technical aspects: designing the benchmark framework, data sources, and their integration in the compilation process; methodological updates, particularly the implementation of the 2008 SNA; rebasing time series; and dissemination policy. The workshop was a good opportunity for METAC to determine and develop TA plans for each country, within the framework of CD in the Phase IV program period.



*Regional workshop on "National Accounts Compilation Issues", Jordan
March 13-16, 2017*