



AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

Launching of the GCC-Stat in Oman

Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC Coordinator, attended the official inauguration of the Statistical Center for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) in Oman, from April 9 to 10, 2014. The Center has been extremely proactive regionally and internationally, laying the foundation for bilateral ties and the establishment of strong relations with international institutions. The forum provided a platform for exchange of views and experiences of different countries.

Statistics Mission on Balance of Payments and International Investment Position (IIP) for Libya

In response to a request from the Libyan authorities, Mr. Malik Bani Hani, METAC Statistics Advisor conducted an external sector statistics mission in Tunis, from April 13 to 17, 2014. The mission assisted the Central Bank of Libya to initiate the compilation of an IIP statement and to provide hands-on training on the compilation of balance of payments and IIP statistics based on the International Monetary Fund's *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, sixth edition*, methodology. The mission reviewed the current compilation practices for balance of payments statistics; assessed the current legality of data sharing and collection arrangement; and identified potential areas for improvement. The mission also provided guidance on identifying new data sources to compile the required statistics.

Regional Workshop on Islamic Banks



METAC jointly with the IMF, Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), conducted a regional workshop in Kuwait City, from April 27 to 30, 2014 on "*Regulation and Supervision of Islamic Banking*". The workshop focused on the main requirements and standards set by the Islamic Financial Services Board in managing the risks of Islamic products and bank operations, as well as the requirements of the new capital adequacy standard, liquidity risk management, stress testing, and shari'ah governance.

Public Account Procedures Mission to Lebanon

A technical assistance mission to assist the Ministry of Finance (MOF) in Lebanon took place from March 26 to April 7, 2014. This mission comprised Mr. Jacques Charaoui, METAC Public Financial Management Advisor, and Ms. Gisèle Suire, METAC short-term expert. The mission conducted an assessment of the public accounting system at the MoF, and identified a number of issues and gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen the public accounting function. Specific recommendations regarding the role and organization of the public accounting directorate were developed, and discussed with the MoF at the conclusion of the mission.

Regional Workshop on International Transactions Reporting System



METAC organized a regional workshop on "*International Transactions Reporting System (ITRS)*" in Amman, from April 7 to 9, 2014. The workshop provided an overview of the ITRS as a data collection framework for international accounts, and discussed in depth the uses and issues of an ITRS in compiling statistics. In addition, the workshop discussed the implications for the ITRS in implementing the sixth edition of the IMF's *BPM6*. The event was attended by 25 participants from METAC and non- METAC countries. The workshop was well received by participants and provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences.

