

Regional Workshops in Fiscal Year 2016

Banking Supervision



Regional workshop on “Cross Border and Consolidated Supervision”, Beirut, June 2015

METAC held a regional workshop on “Cross-Border and Consolidated Supervision” in Lebanon. The workshop provided guidance on the methodologies and approaches for implementing efficient cross-border and consolidated supervision. It also provided a good setting for exchanging views, sharing experiences on how banking groups are supervised. The workshop was attended by 20 participants; directors, deputy directors, and senior bank examiners of supervision departments from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Public Financial Management

In the area of PFM, METAC delivered two regional workshops:

Budget Preparation

METAC held a workshop on Budget Preparation in the Dead Sea, Jordan. The workshop focused on the techniques and processes required for successful preparation of annual and medium-term budgets in the context of governments’ fiscal policies and financial constraints. It also served as a platform for sharing the participating countries’ experience in improving public sector efficiency and effectiveness, and for discussion of potential alternatives to overcome fiscal pressures.

Fiscal Reporting and Transparency

The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) and METAC jointly organized a workshop on Fiscal Reporting and Transparency in Kuwait in March 2016. The workshop focused on: (i) the conceptual framework of fiscal reports, including latest changes in the methodology; (ii) the institutional and data coverage, accounting rules, classifications, balance sheets and other instruments used for fiscal data compilation according to government finance statistics manual 2014; (iii) selected issues of fiscal analysis; (iv) the treatment of Islamic

Finance; (v) and international good practices and practical issues of fiscal data compilation and dissemination using countries' experiences.

Revenue Administration



TADAT Regional Workshop in Jordan December 9-11, 2017

METAC held two workshops on the recently launched TADAT in Jordan. The first was a national workshop for Jordan, and was funded by USAID Jordan Fiscal Reform Project. The second was a regional workshop held for METAC member countries. A total of 46 participants from 7 METAC countries attended the two workshops. TADAT has been developed by the IMF in conjunction with a range of development partner organizations, and provides a rigorous and objective method for reviewing tax authority performance against standard definitions of international good practice. The workshops were held in association with the TADAT Secretariat in Washington DC.

Participation in “Tax Policy and Administration: Theory and Practice” Workshop

METAC’s revenue administration advisor participated as a presenter at an FAD course at the CEF. The subject of the course was Tax Policy and Administration: Theory and Practice, and was attended by participants from both METAC and non-METAC countries in the MENA region. This was the first time FAD had run a course covering both policy and administrative issues in the area of taxation. Participants were drawn from Finance Ministries, Central Banks and Tax Authorities.

Statistics

Price Index Compilation Issues

METAC and the IMF Statistics Department (STA) held a workshop on “Price Index Compilation Issues” in Beirut. The workshop addressed specific price statistics compilation issues of participating countries. International standards and best practices were also discussed. The interactive workshop facilitated extensive discussions and included practical exercises. In a final

wrap-up session, participants were given the opportunity to identify potential areas for future METAC TA support.

Twenty-four officials from national statistical offices who are involved in the compilation of price statistics in the MENA region attended the workshop.

National Accounts Compilation Issues



Regional Workshop on National Accounts, Beirut, March 2015

METAC and STA held a workshop on “National Accounts Compilation Issues” in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop focused on country specific issues and challenges identified by participants in compiling national accounts (NA). International standards and best practices with regard to the compilation of NA were discussed, in particular, those related to the implementation of the requirements of 2008 System of NA and their impact on estimating the GDP. During the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to identify potential areas for future METAC TA support.

Officials from national statistical offices who are involved in the compilation of (NA) statistics in the MENA region attended the workshop. In total, 20 participants from eight countries attended.