

Regional Workshops in Fiscal Year 2015

Banking Supervision

- **Basel III: Practical Aspects and Implementation**– METAC organized this regional workshop in Lebanon in August 2014, which was attended by 20 senior level participants from 10 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The workshop included discussions and training on how to implement Basel III requirements and improve the ability of banks' examiners and supervisors to better evaluate banks' capital adequacy in relation to their inherent risks, as well as to assess the adequacy of their liquidity levels. The workshop covered several topics related to the regulatory capital measurement under Basel III, including stress testing for better capital planning, the measurement of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), and Basel III assessment framework. In addition to the lectures, the workshop provided practical training techniques; including group case studies and discussions, and hands-on applied exercises. The workshop provided a good opportunity for exchanging views and sharing experience among participants.



Workshop on “Basel III: Practical Aspects and Implementation”
Lebanon, August 2014

- **Risk-Based Supervision in Institutions Offering Islamic Financial Services (IIFS) –** METAC organized jointly with the CEF a regional workshop in Kuwait, in February 2015. The workshop provided guidance on the methodologies and approaches for implementing RBS in institutions offering IIFS. RBS is an ongoing forward looking process for understanding and assessing the adequacy of banks' risk management in the course of identifying, measuring, controlling and monitoring risks in an appropriate and proper manner. The workshop attracted directors, deputy directors, and senior banks' examiners of supervision departments from 14 Arab League countries. This workshop provided the appropriate setting for exchanging views, sharing experiences on how banking entities in these countries are supervised. Case studies about the identification of inherent risks and assessing governance and oversight on IIFS were also presented and discussed. Some participants presented their countries' experiences in implementing RBS.



Workshop on “Risk-Based Supervision in Institutions Offering Islamic Financial Services (IIFS)”
Kuwait, February 2015

Public Financial Management

- Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks** – METAC organized a workshop in Lebanon on MTEF, in December 2014. It was attended by senior representatives of finance and planning ministries from the MENA region. In total, 27 delegates from 11 countries attended the workshop which focused on techniques, processes, and institutions required for successful implementation of a MTEF. The workshop aimed at deepening participants' understanding of issues related to the development of MTEFs and their relationship with macro-fiscal forecasting, national development planning and wider issues of budgeting and PFM.



***Workshop on “Fiscal Reporting and Transparency”
Kuwait, March 2015***

- Fiscal Reporting and Transparency** – METAC organized jointly with the CEF, a regional workshop on FRT in March 2015, in Kuwait City. The workshop focused on the techniques and processes required for enhancing FRT among ministries of finance and planning and statistics agencies. It discussed the priorities for and approaches to improve the coverage, frequency, timeliness, and relevance of public fiscal reporting. These two workshops received provided an opportunity for knowledge, exchange, sharing of experience, and lessons learnt.



Workshop on “Medium-Term Expenditure Framework” Lebanon, December 2014

Revenue Administration

METAC organized two regional workshops:



Workshop on “Tax-Customs Interaction”

- **Tax-Customs Interaction** – METAC held a workshop on Tax-Customs Interaction in Lebanon, during August 2014. The workshop was designed to raise awareness of the advantages to be gained from effective inter-departmental interaction, and assess the challenges faced within the MENA region at the legal, systems and operational levels. This was the first time that METAC had brought together representatives of both tax and customs administrations in a single event



Workshop on “Understanding Compliance Behavior”

Kuwait, February 2015

- **Understanding Compliance Behavior** – The CEF and METAC jointly organized a regional workshop on Understanding Compliance Behavior, in Kuwait City, during February 2015. The workshop focus was on broadening participants’ appreciation of the full range of compliance management and enhancement activities that are available to tax authorities. It addressed the reasons for various categories of non-compliant taxpayer behavior, and encouraged delegates to discuss and share strategic responses that match compliance management actions to various compliance behavior profiles.

Both workshops were supported by technology solution providers – SAP in the case of *Tax-Customs Interaction*, and Atos/Bull in the case of *Understanding Compliance Behavior*. These organizations were invited to give workshop participants an understanding the contribution that technology based systems can make to effective and efficient revenue administration.

Both workshops provided the basis on which a number of future, country-specific TA missions have been designed.

Statistics

Compilation of Financial Account and External Sector Position Statistics

METAC organized a regional workshop on the Compilation of Financial Account and External Sector Position Statistics in Lebanon, in October 2014. The workshop discussed in depth the compilation of financial account and external sector position statistics and focused on the use of the balance sheets to compile the ESS, with emphasis on compilation of the quarterly IIP, CDIS, CPIS, EDS, and Reserves Template. It also addressed data consistency issues across external sector datasets, as well as with related datasets. Twenty-five representatives from the MENA region participated in the workshop (of which 20 participants from METAC countries). The workshop provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences.



Workshop on “Compilation of Financial Account and External Sector Position Statistics”

Lebanon, October 2014

Price Statistics Compilation Issues

Jointly with the STA Department, METAC organized a regional workshop on the Price Statistics Compilation Issues in Lebanon, during February 2015. The workshop addressed specific compilation issues noted by the authorities and discussed international standards and best practices with regard to the compilation of price indices. Thirty-one participants from the region attended the workshop (of which 27 participants from METAC countries). The workshop provided an opportunity for knowledge and sharing of experiences.



Workshop on “Price Statistics Compilation Issues”; Lebanon, February 2015

The Sixth Edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)*

METAC organized a regional workshop on the *BPM6* in Lebanon, during March 2015. The workshop discussed in depth the changes brought by the *BPM6* and the methodology for collecting and compiling balance of payments and IIP statistics based on the *BPM6* and the *BPM6 Compilation Guide*. It also focused on helping compilers of external statistics to report balance of payments and IIP statistics.



Workshop on “The Sixth Edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)”

Lebanon, March 2015