



Regional Training on Statistical Methods and Information System Technologies for Implementing CountrySTAT in the ECO Countries

10-13 November 2014, ECO Secretariat, Tehran

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS



GENERAL INFORMATION

I. Introduction

The “Regional Training Workshop on Statistical Methods and Information System Technologies for Implementing CountryStat in the ECO Countries” will be conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in joint collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) from 10 to 13 November 2014 at the premise of the ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

This training workshop is one of the components of the FAO project on “*Support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT Framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries*” for development of agriculture statistics and CountrySTAT in the region. This project, in the first step, is being implemented in Afghanistan as the pilot country in the region and in the next step, will be replicated to other ECO countries.

CountrySTAT is a web-based information system for statistics on food and agriculture at regional, national and sub national levels. Created as a response to the weakened state of agricultural statistics in many countries, it supports multiple-sourced data integration and harmonization according to international standards and ensures data quality and reliability.

CountrySTAT implements international standards and uses advanced FAOSTAT technology.

- ✓ CountrySTAT centralizes, harmonizes, standardizes, integrates and validates data on food and agriculture coming from various sources.
- ✓ CountrySTAT architecture allows for a customizable Content Management System and personalization of the user interface.
- ✓ Data is stored and distributed through FENIX database and XML-based facilities.

II. Venue of Training Workshop

The regional training workshop will be held at the premise of the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran.

Address:

No. 1, Golbou Alley, Pasha Zohri Street, South Kamranieh, Tehran

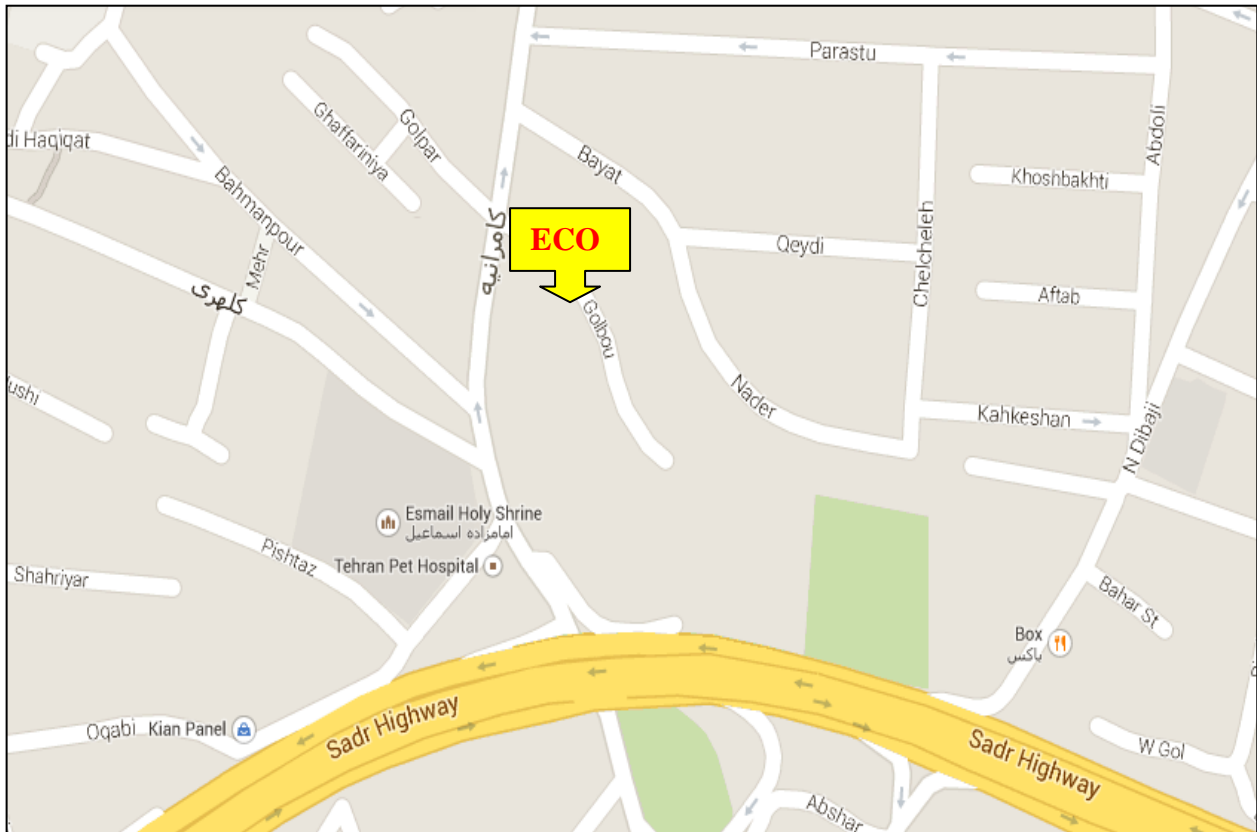
Postal Code: 19519 – 33114

Tel: (+98-21) 22 83 17 33 - 4

Fax: (+98-21) 22 83 17 32

E-mail: registry@ecosecretariat.org

Website: www.ecosecretariat.org



III. Organization of the Regional Training

Economic Cooperation Organization in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the FAO County Office in Tehran provide the necessary logistics for conducting this regional training workshop for the ECO Member States.

a. Hotel accommodation

Participants will stay at Parsian Azadi Hotel, a five star hotel, located in the north-east of Tehran. Reservation has been made by co-organizers of the workshop for participants. Address and map of the Hotel is provided below.

Address:

Yadegare -Imam Cross Road, Chamran Highway, Tehran

P.O.Box:14655-348

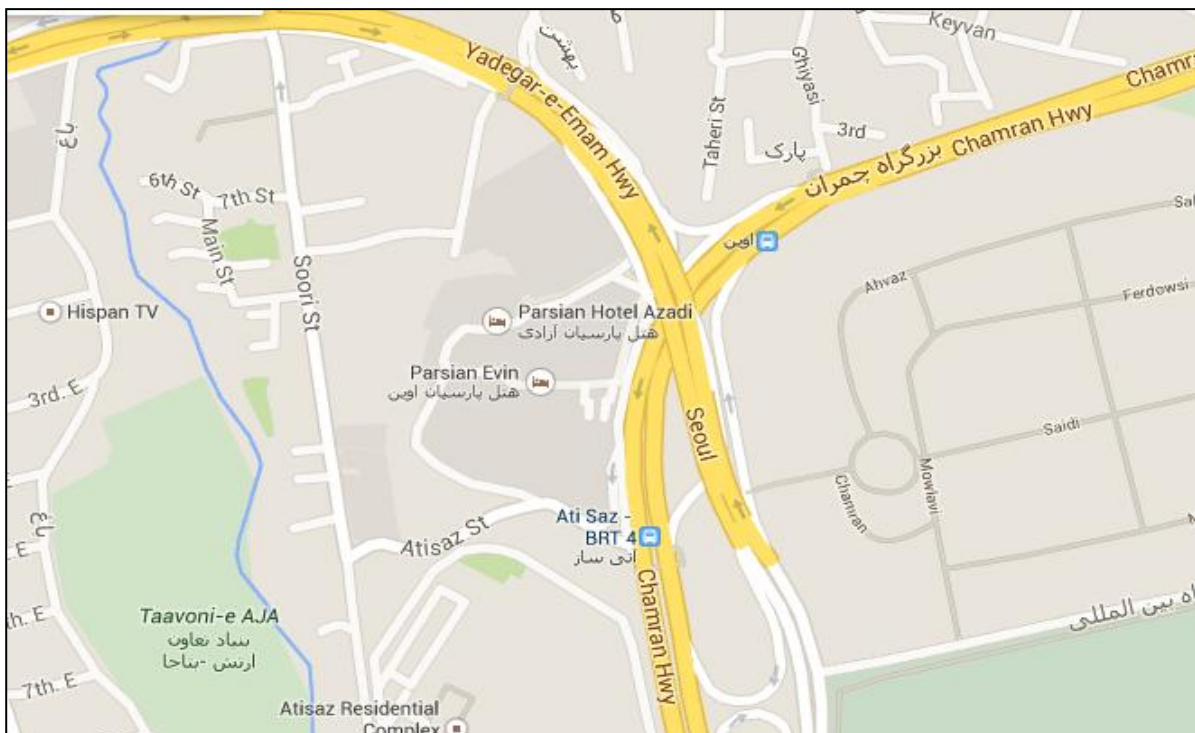
Tel: (+98-21) 29112

(+98-21) 22 34 44 44

Fax: (+98-21) 22 34 44 78

Email: Reservation@azadihotel.com

Website: www.azadihotel.com



As explained in the correspondence of the ECO Secretariat with ECO Member States, the FAO will bear the cost of travel (round air ticket), per diem (for coverage of boarding and lodging) and local transportation for two participants from each ECO Member States (one participant from National Statistical Office and the second from the Ministry of Agriculture). ECO will provide the venue of the training workshop (conference hall with facilities including tea-coffee breaks) and translation services.

b. Entry visa to Iran

Entry visa requirements to Iran for nationals of ECO countries are described in the table below. According to the table, ECO countries nationals holding diplomatic and service passports are mostly exempted from visa for their travelling for participation in the workshop.

Entry visa requirements to Iran for nationals from ECO countries (as of 22th October 2014)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Diplomatic Passport</i>	<i>Service Passport</i>	<i>Ordinary Passport</i>
Afghanistan	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed	Visa needed
Azerbaijan	Visa exemption for one month	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed
Kazakhstan	Visa exemption for one month	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed
Kyrgyz Republic	Visa exemption for one month	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed
Pakistan	Visa exemption for three months	Visa exemption for three months	Visa needed
Tajikistan	Visa exemption for one month	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed
Turkey	No visa is needed	No visa is needed	No visa is needed
Turkmenistan	Visa exemption for one month	Visa exemption for one month	Visa needed
Uzbekistan	Visa needed	Visa needed	Visa needed

The ECO Secretariat has corresponded with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to facilitate the procedure for issuance of entry visa to Iran for the participants, officially nominated by their respective Member States. In this regard, participants have been requested to provide official nomination letter, filled Passport Specification Form and copy of passport to the ECO Secretariat (copy of the Secretariat's note for visa is forwarded to the participants for reference).

Participants should approach the Embassy (or relevant diplomatic or consular mission) of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their country to obtain entry visa to Iran. The official correspondence of the ECO Secretariat with the MFA of Iran will support documentation for granting visa to the participants. Since the processing of visa issuance will take considerable time, participants are recommended to pay priority attention to this matter.

c. Arrangements upon arrival

Participants should provide their flight itinerary (Flight number, Arrival time) to the ECO in appropriate time for necessary arrangements by the ECO Secretariat for transportation of participants from the airport to the hotel. Transportation from the Airport to Hotel will be provided through the special shuttle services. Participants should look for a staff with their respective sign at the airport for going to the hotel.

Participants who did not communicate their flight details to the ECO Secretariat, cannot be benefitted from this special shuttle services and would have to find their own way to the hotel. However, in such exceptional case, participants should take an airport shuttle taxi to take them to the hotel (Parsian Azadi Hotel, as introduced in this booklet). Please note that taxi fare from the airport to the hotel is 550,000 Iranian Rials (equal to 17 US\$) with TOYOTA Taxi and 500,000 Iranian Rials (equal to 15 US\$) by SAMAND (Iranian brand) Taxi.

d. Working Language of the Meeting

The meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous translation to Russian.

IV. Registration

Registration of participants will take place at the ground floor of the premise of the ECO Secretariat and identification badges will be provided to participants. According to the Provisional Agenda of the workshop, registration will be from 09:00 to 09:30 on Monday, 10th October 2014. All participants are recommended to wear their identification badges during the workshop.

V. Local currency and foreign exchange

National currency of the Islamic Republic of Iran is Iranian Rial. Money can be changed at the airport, from banks, Iran exchange shops as well as in the hotel. There are two exchange rates: Official exchange rate and Market exchange rate. The exchange rates based on the last information (as of 2nd November 2014) are as follows:

Official exchange rate: 1 USD = 26, 714 Iranian Rials

Market exchange rate: 1 USD = 32,400 Iranian Rials

VI. Electricity

The voltage for all electric appliances used in the Islamic Republic of Iran is 220 Volts.

VII. Weather and clothing

Weather in Tehran in November might be rainy and cold at night. The average temperature in Tehran in November is 10-12 degrees centigrade in daytime and 3-4 degrees centigrade in the nights. So, carrying coats and warm clothing are recommended.

VIII. Useful Phone Numbers

Police: 110

Emergency: 115

Fire: 125

Taxi Service: 133

IX. Contact Persons

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