Training Workshops on Energy Statistics:
Joint Organisations Data Initiative 11-12 December
Energy Balances 13-14 December
UN House Beirut Lebanon

Aerial view of Beirut

ESCWA building
Welcome

the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) will host the Joint Organisations Data Initiative 11-12 December with the support of the JODI partners: APEC, Eurostat, GECF, IEA, IEF, OPEC, OLADÉ, and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), as well as JODI Associate Member OAPEC, to be held on 11-12 December 2018, followed by a training on Energy Balances on 13 and 14 December 2018, at the ESCWA Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, supported by the IEA and UNSD.

The Workshop

The aim of the JODI workshop is to train energy experts and statisticians from MENA region who oversee monthly hydrocarbon data collection to enhance JODI-Oil and JODI-Gas submissions and improve overall data quality and energy data transparency from this key region. More transparent, timely and reliable monthly and yearly compilation of energy statistics on supply and demand on main energy products by the different sectors will provide improved understanding to enable better decisions.

The purpose of the Energy Balances workshop is to study international methodologies for reporting national data on energy and to learn how to build a national energy balance. Collecting, processing and reporting energy data in a consistent and comparable way is fundamental for national administrations to support sound energy policies, domestically and internationally. The training will include theoretical and practical sessions guided by IEA, UNSD and ESCWA experts. The training will data on compilation for different fuels - coal, oil, gas, renewables and electricity and heat – as well as on energy production, trade, stocks and consumption by sector as they comprise the complete basic statistics that are the building blocks for a national energy balance. The training also provides insights on data dissemination and the development of energy efficiency data.

Energy Balance are a unique data source or policy-makers, analysts and companies involved in the energy sector. In that context, ESCWA, IEA, and UNSD will continue their cooperation on compilation and synergies with monthly data and co-sponsor the participation of delegates from National Statistical offices and Ministries of Energy.

The address and contact details of the Workshop venue are as follows:

**United Nations – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)**
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad el-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon

**TELEPHONE:** +961-1-981301

**FAX:** +961-1-981510

**Satellite Tel via NY HQ:** +1(212)-963-9731

**Satellite Fax via NY HQ:** +1(212) 963-9732

**Website:** [https://www.unescwa.org/](https://www.unescwa.org/)
Visa Arrangements

**Participants are required to check if they need a visa for Lebanon and make their own arrangements for the visas if needed.** Detailed information on entry visas to Lebanon is available on the following link. [http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/38](http://www.general-security.gov.lb/en/posts/38)

However, participants from countries where there is no Lebanese embassy or consulate, ESCWA can issue a visa for them after providing a copy of their passport valid for more than 6 months and a work attestation, knowing that visa procedures require two weeks.

Arrival and Transport from Airport to Hotel

Participants will arrive in Beirut through Rafic Hariri International Airport. Once outside the arrival building you will be received by many taxi drivers. The transfer charge from the Airport to the Hotel is about LL 35,000.
**Transport in Beirut**

Beirut is not very big, and most areas are accessible by foot. Most people get around by taxi. There are two kinds of taxis – the “service” (pronounced the French way – “ser-vees”) and the normal taxi. The service runs as a kind of shared taxi – other people may get in en route to your destination. If you are OK with this, then tell the taxi driver “service” and make sure he agrees before getting in the taxi. For any taxi, you should always agree on the price with the driver before getting in.

Standard maximum prices are: LL 2,000 for a service and LL 10,000 for a taxi going a significant distance.

**Hotel Arrangements**

Each participant will arrange for their own hotel accommodation. A list of hotels with the UN rate is also provided in a separate document.

For each day of the Workshop, participants will be responsible for their own transport arrangements. The address and location of The ESCWA building are shown above.

**Other Information about Beirut**

**Weather**

Beirut is situated on the sea level. The average temperatures you’ll face in November would be between 17.0°C and 24.0°C, with exceptional possible peaks.

**Electric supply**

Electricity in Lebanon is 230 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

**Money and currency**

The official currency in Lebanon is the Lebanese Lira (LL). Notes available in coins with denominations of: 250 and 500 Lira; and banknotes available in denominations of: 1,000; 5,000; 10,000; 20,000; 50,000 and 100,000.

United States dollars $ are used widely throughout the country. Restaurants, hotels, and stores often quote their prices in dollars, and many establishments will convert and provide dollar prices for you upon request.

The $/LL exchange rate is relatively stable, hovering around $1=LL1,500
**Banks**

The opening hours for most banks are: Monday – Friday: 8.30 am – 2.00 pm and Saturdays: 9.00 am -1.00 pm.

It is possible to withdraw money (in Lebanese currency or United States Dollar) at ATMs with your bank card.

**Credit cards**

VISA, Mastercard and American Express are accepted in most of the international hotels, shops and restaurants.

**Language**

While Arabic is Lebanon’s official language, English and French are widely spoken. Most Lebanese speak at least two or three languages, and visitors will find no problems communicating. Many establishments provide signs, menus and information in both Arabic and English.
Key Contacts

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