

Training Sessions at the 33rd IARIW General Conference, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, August 23-24, 2014

The IARIW is again offering two concurrent training sessions immediately preceding the General Conference (August 24-30, 2014) on the topics of national accounts and price measurement on Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24 at the Manhattan Hotel in Rotterdam.

Details on the sessions are found below. The sessions are open to individual IARIW members as well as employees of IARIW institutional members at no charge. As space may be limited, persons interested are encouraged to register as soon as possible. To register, download and complete this [form](#), save it and then email the form to info@iariw.org. Registrations will be acknowledged within three days.

Training Session on National Accounts

The training session on national accounts will be provided by Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts at the OECD. The objective of the course is to respond as much as possible to the questions and needs of the participants. Therefore, participants are strongly invited to inform the course leaders on specific issues that they would like to be addressed during the course. Doing so, one has to take into consideration that the issue must remain quite general as the training session is not directed to persons with extensive experience in national accounts.

Session 1: Overview of the system of national accounts, including basic identities

Session 2: Price and volume measurement

Session 3: General government

Session 4: Households

Session 5: Impact of the revision of international guidelines (SNA 2008)

Session 6: National accounts in a globalising world

Session 7: GDP and beyond: Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report

Session 8: Future developments in the compilation of national accounts

Training Session on Price Measurement

The training session on price measurement will be given by Professor Erwin Diewert (University of British Columbia and University of New South Wales). The objective of the course is to give participants an introduction to the theoretical background that

underlies the construction of price indexes and an introduction to a number of practical problems that face the price statistician.

The course would be suitable for statisticians working in the price index divisions of statistical agencies responsible for constructing Consumer and Producer Price Indexes. The course would also be suitable for graduate students and faculty in economics and business who want to learn how official price indexes are constructed.

A knowledge of matrix algebra and calculus would be useful for some parts of the course.

Lecture notes on the topics listed below will be distributed to participants shortly before the course. Thus participants will have to send in their email addresses when they register for the course. Participants who wish to do some background reading on the topics listed below will find most of the topics treated in some depth in Diewert's lecture notes for Economics 580 at the University of British Columbia. These lecture notes are freely available at the following web address:

<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/ediewert/580chmpg.htm>

It should be noted that lecture notes on calculus and matrix algebra are also available at the above address. Diewert's Economic 580 lecture notes cover the topics for this training session in much more detail and depth but the training course should give participants a good overview of the theoretical and practical problems associated with the construction of price indexes.

Topics to be Covered

Session 1: Introduction: Early Approaches to Index Number Theory: Fixed basket approaches; stochastic approaches and test approaches.

Session 2: Economic Approaches to Index Number Theory: Konüs true cost of living indexes; democratic and plutocratic cost of living indexes; the Allen quantity index; the Malmquist quantity index; exact and superlative indexes.

Session 3: The Construction of Consumer Price Indexes: Lowe indexes; elementary indexes; consumer expenditure surveys; substitution bias.

Session 4: Multilateral Index Number Theory: The GEKS multilateral system; multilateral indexes at the elementary level; preservation of regional parities; an application to scanner data.

Session 5: The Treatment of Quality Change: The new goods problem; hedonic regression methods.

Session 6: **The Treatment of Housing and Other Durables in the CPI:** user costs; various approaches to the treatment of housing in a CPI; the use of hedonic regression methods.

Session 7: **Problems Associated with Seasonal Commodities:** strong and weakly seasonal commodities; year over year indexes; rolling year indexes; imputation methods.