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HIGHLIGHTS

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt Statistics: Government Finance Statistics Training in India (November 13-14, November 26-27, December 10-11 and January 11-12). Government Finance Statistics TA in Maldives (January 20-February 4, 2019).

Real/External Sector Statistics: Consumer Price Index TA in Bangladesh (December 2-11), National Accounts mission to Sri Lanka (January 7-18, 2019) and to Maldives (January 27-February 7, 2019).

Revenue Administration: Several missions to Bhutan: advising the GST project team on the development of business process designs for taxpayer registration in Bhutan (December 10-21); assistance to the Department of Revenue and Customs to implement the GST IT system (December 17-21); and develop a business process design for risk-based audits for the new GST system (January 14-26, 2019). IMF SARTTAC joined an IMF HQ mission to review the status of tax reform activities in Sri Lanka (January 27-February 5, 2019). Assisted with the use of nudge technologies in tax administration in India (January 28-February 1, 2019). Indian tax officials from the CBIC were also attached to the Australian Tax Office (November 22-30).

Public Financial Management: Strengthening Treasury Single Account in Nepal (December 5-18). In India, support was provided to Rajasthan with missions on Budget Formulation (December 10-14) and Fiscal Risks (January 15-18, 2019). Diagnostic PFM mission to Odisha (January 23-February 5, 2019). A training-cum-peer learning for the officers of Nepal's Ministry of Finance was organized during November 26-30.

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: Work on insurance supervision in Maldives (November 21-29) and Bhutan (December 3-14). Two missions in Bangladesh to organize seminars on risk-based supervision for the senior management (December 4-5) and supervisory staff (January 27-31, 2019) of the Bangladesh Bank. The resident advisor joined the MCM TA mission to Maldives (November 16-19) and the FSSR mission to Sri Lanka (January 21-24, 2019).

Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations: The expert overlapped with the IMF Article IV team to discuss modernization of the monetary policy framework (December 3-6) in Nepal and joined a HQ team to discuss further TA needs with the Maldives (December 17-19).

Macro-Fiscal Analysis: The resident advisor conducted work on Fiscal Analysis and Forecasting with the authorities in Rajasthan, India (November 19-21 and January 11-18, 2019). This work is being used to build a case study for training of all Indian states.

Regional and National Training Courses: During the quarter, eight regional training courses/workshops were conducted, all at SARTTAC. Collections and Arrears Management (November 12-16); Fiscal Sustainability-Debt Sustainability Framework for Low Income Countries (November 12-16); Practical Implementation of Risk-Based Supervision (November 26-30); EBA Lite Workshop (December 10-12); Audit Techniques (December 10-14); Improved Treasury and Debt Management (January 7-11); Macroeconometric Forecasting and Analysis (January 7-11); and Taxpayer Registration (January 21-25). Nine national courses were conducted during the third quarter (see page 6).

Director: The Director participated in an IMF staff visit to the RBI (November 26) that discussed recent developments and CD needs. He also met with the authorities in Rajasthan to discuss the medium-term reform assistance for the IMF SARTTAC PFM project (November 27). SARTTAC members attended an IMF conference in Hanoi (January 16-17) on Infrastructure Development, Financing and Governance in Asia, where the Director chaired a concluding panel. Finally, along with the Deputy Director, he was invited to Bangladesh to meet senior officials post elections to discuss future cooperation (January 30-31, 2019). During a recent PFM mission to Odisha, IMF SARTTAC donated computers to an educational institute in the village of Berunpadi.



Forthcoming Activities and TA Dissemination: Forthcoming activities through end-April 2019 are provided in Table 1. TA reports on the secure site are in Table 2. For IMF online training for the next quarter (February 2019-April 2019), see page 13.

BANGLADESH

Real/External Sector Statistics: A TA mission on the Consumer Price Index (December 2-11) assessed progress to date in updating and revising the CPI; assisted with developing the weights for the new CPI using revised expenditure and VAT data; assisted with selecting a new basket; updated the detailed work plan to guide the authorities on the way forward updating and revising the CPI. The mission also assessed TA needs for the PPI.

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: Resident advisor conducted two missions to organize seminars on, risk-based supervision (RBS) for the senior management of the Bangladesh Bank (December 4-5) and the staff of Bangladesh Bank working on banking supervision and representatives of banks operating in Bangladesh (January 27-31).



Seminar on Risk Based Supervision at the Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh (January 27-31)

BHUTAN

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: A third mission to Bhutan on the supervision of insurance (December 3-14, 2018) was fielded, focusing on insurer asset segregation, development of a regulatory reporting template, and finalization of the solvency requirements.

Revenue Administration: A high level of activity continued to support implementation of the new GST. A visit on Taxpayer Registration design worked on the process of registration, transition of taxpayers, IT requirements, and provided examples of taxpayer registration designs (December 10-21). SARTTAC continued its support for the procurement of an IT system (December 17-21). It also helped transfer skills on GST audit processes, develop business process maps for the GST taxpayer audit, IT requirements for the taxpayer audit process, and provided examples of taxpayer audit program design (January 14-26, 2019).

INDIA

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt Statistics: A 2 day seminar at SARTTAC was held for GFS compilers and users, and included staff of Technical Assistance Mission to India during

November 13-14 and included staff of the MOF, RBI, and MOSPI. Three training interventions have taken place with Rajasthan. A visit (November 26–27, 2018) assisted the authorities in translating the state’s fiscal statistics and budget data for fiscal years into the GFSM 2014 framework. This was followed by in state training (December 10–11, 2018) for the Finance Department and Comptroller and Auditor General Office (CAG) staff. Further work on this conversion to GFSM 2014 was undertaken during the Rajasthan team’s visit to SARTTAC (January 11-12, 2019), including focus on filling GFS data gaps.



GFS Course in Rajasthan, India (December 10-11)

Revenue Administration: an expert that was in Delhi to deliver training on taxpayer registration was asked by CBIC to subsequently (January 28-February 1) work with CBIC officials on nudge approaches and behavioral insights in support of the administration of the GST system.



TA mission with CBIC, India (January 28-February 1)

Public Financial Management: A TA mission on Budget Formulation (December 10-14) was an integral diagnostic as part of support to the Government of Rajasthan. The mission focused on strengthening budget planning and developing a fiscal strategy. As part of moving to top-down budgeting, it is recommended that the authorities develop a fiscal strategy report. More detailed recommendations were developed in follow on work on fiscal risks (Jan 15-18) which focused on staffing for collecting information, developing an understanding of risks, and updating and quantifying the draft fiscal risk register developed by the mission. A diagnostic mission to Odisha (January 22-February 5) covered developing the macro-fiscal function, improving budget

credibility, introducing fiscal risk management, and focusing on commitment controls and cash management. As a follow up to a PFM diagnostic mission to the Union Government in FY19, an annotated outline for a fiscal strategy statement has been developed. macro-fiscal function, fiscal risk management, commitment controls and cash management.



Technical Assistance Mission to State Government of Rajasthan, India (January 14-18)



TA Mission to Odisha, India (January 22- February 5)

Macro-Fiscal Analysis: SARTTAC's macroeconomic advisor delivered training in macro-fiscal forecasting as part of PFM and ICD missions over the past three months (November 19-21, 2018 and January 11-18, 2019). This work has been instrumental in detailing a case study of the state that can be used with other states. The macro-fiscal forecasting training seeks to provide a medium-term framework that States can underpin their Budget process, consistent with their FRBM requirements.



Additional Chief Secretary Finance of Rajasthan during the training course on Macro-Fiscal Forecasting and Policy Analysis, Rajasthan, India (January 11-18)

MALDIVES

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt Statistics: A GFS/PSDS TA mission (January 20-February 4) followed up the August 2018 training in the Maldives and was requested by the authorities. The mission produced a GFS/PSDS migration plan and assisted authorities in preparing to resume annual GFS submission to the IMF.



Honorable Minister of Finance and Treasury during a GFS/PSDS mission to Maldives (January 20-February 4)

Real/External Sector Statistics: January 27 to February 7 was technical assistance on developing GDP-E. This mission assisted the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) with developing annual GDP estimates by expenditure (GDP-E) at current and constant prices.

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: SARTTAC continued its work on insurance supervision with the Maldives Monetary Authority. This third mission (November 21-29) focused on the finalization of the solvency requirements, the preparation of a risk-based supervision risk assessment methodology and a supervisory plan as part of the RBS process, and assist the MMA in the conduct of an on-site inspection. SARTTAC's resident advisor joined a HQ mission to discuss MMA TA needs from December 16-19.



Stefaan Ide joined SARTTAC in November 2018 as its Monetary and Foreign Exchange Advisor. He previously worked at the National Bank of Belgium's Research & Economics Department with a focus on International Macroeconomics and on Monetary Policy Strategy and Implementation. Before joining SARTTAC, he assisted the Bank of Algeria in modernizing its monetary policy framework as an IMF resident advisor.

Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations: SARTTAC's expert joined a HQ mission to discuss TA needs (December 17-19). The focus was to discuss the role of an Advisor to the Governor and help MMA implement its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

mission took stock of the progress made so far, and discussed further work on liquidity monitoring and forecasting, and liquidity instruments, that can help operationalize the interest rate corridor. It also discussed SARTTAC's work plan for FY 20.

SRI LANKA

Real/External Sector Statistics: A mission (January 7-18) to the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) assisted with populating and balancing supply and use tables (SUT) for the 2015 benchmark year. The SUT is a key input in the rebasing exercise.



National Accounts Mission, Sri Lanka (January 7-18)

Revenue Administration: In response to a request from the authorities, SARTTAC (January 27- February 5) joined a HQ mission to assess implementation readiness for the filing of the first annual income tax returns under the new Inland Revenue Act (IRA) which are due in November 2019 and provide recommendations to address any identified gaps.

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: SARTTAC resident advisor joined the concluding meetings of the FSSR mission led by MCM to assess TA needs of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (January 21-24, 2019).

ATTACHMENTS

Revenue Administration: Four CBIC officials were attached to the Australian Treasury Department (November 22-30, 2018) to understand the policy and legal framework of the Australian GST and to the Australian Tax Office to understand its risk management, dispute resolution, electronic dealings and its structure and operational arrangements.

NEPAL

Public Financial Management: A SARTTAC mission visited Nepal to help with cash management (December 5-18). The purpose of this mission was to work with MoF to review the functionalities and strengthen the existing Treasury Single Account (TSA) system. It also sought to harmonize subnational TSA systems with the central TSA, and also advised on using the TSA for general government fiscal reporting.



Technical Assistance Mission on Strengthening Treasury Single Account, Nepal (December 5-18)

Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations: SARTTAC's advisor joined the IMF's Article IV mission to ensure monetary policy capacity building work was well integrated in policy dialogue on the monetary policy framework (December 3-6). The



Attachment of CBIC officials to the Australian Treasury Department (November 22-30)

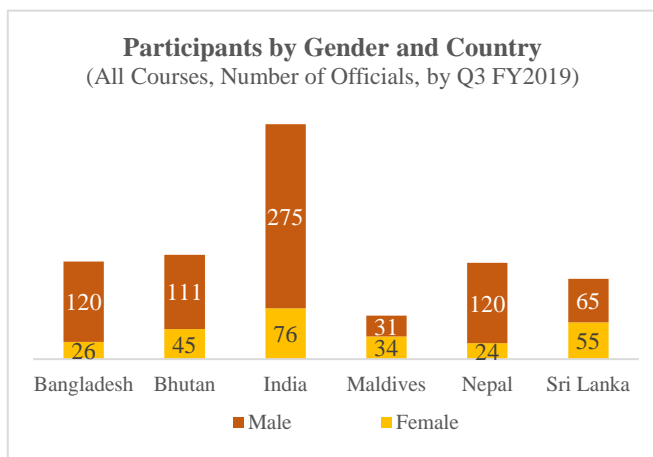
Public Financial Management: A training-cum-peer learning for the officers of Nepal’s Ministry of Finance was organized during November 26-30. The purpose of the attachment was to provide exposures on how India has managed fiscal operations across its different tiers of government.



Attachment of Ministry of Finance of Nepal officials to Ministry of Finance, India (November 26-30)

REGIONAL TRAINING

SARTTAC had cumulatively trained 982 officials by the end of the third quarter of FY2019. Of these, 607 participated in in-country courses and the remaining 375 in regional courses at SARTTAC. Participants by gender and country are given in the chart below, with the largest contingent from India, and one quarter being female.



Revenue Administration: Several specialized revenue administration trainings have taken place over recent months. These included: Collections and Arrears Management (November 12-16); Audit Techniques (December 10-14) which focused on more accurate reporting of revenue; and Taxpayer Registration (January 21-25, 2019) outlining various registration approaches to be used by revenue authorities.



Collections and Arrears Management, New Delhi, India (November 12-16)



Training Course on Taxpayer Registration, New Delhi, India (January 21-25)

Public Financial Management: Based on demand, a course on Improved Treasury and Debt Management (January 7-11) covered good practices on treasury, cash and debt management in SARTTAC countries including selected Indian States. The course exposed participants to practices on active cash management, prudent debt management and techniques to quantify contingent liabilities. A significant number of participants from Nepal’s newly established public debt management office participated in the course.



Training Course on Improved Treasury and Debt Management, New Delhi, India (January 7-11)



Macroeconometric Forecasting and Analysis, New Delhi, India (January 7-11, 2019)

NATIONAL TRAINING

Government Finance and Public Sector Debt Statistics: A high level GFS/PSDS Training Seminar was organized for India's Ministry of Finance, RBI and MOSPI during November 13-14. Two back to back GFS/PSDS trainings were organized for India's CAG (November 28-30 and December 3-5), with participation from mid-level CAG managers from a large cross-section of Indian states.



GFS/PSDS Training Seminar for MoF, MoSPI and RBI, New Delhi, India (November 13-14)



Training Course on GFS/PSDS, New Delhi, India (December 3-5)

Real/External Sector Statistics: Two in-country courses on National Accounts Statistics were organized. First in Bangladesh (November 4-8), the key purpose was to increase the number of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics staff who can help compile national accounts estimates and to increase the number



Training Course on External Balance Assessment, New Delhi, India (December 10-12)

of officials within the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Bangladesh Bank (BB) who understand how GDP estimates are compiled and can interpret the statistics. A similar course was organized for Maldives (November 25-29). This training strengthened staff capacity in compiling and disseminating annual and quarterly GDP in the near term and seasonally adjusted quarterly GDP in the long term.



Training Course on National Accounts Statistics, Bangladesh (November 4-8)



Tax Administration and Diagnostics Assessment Tool, New Delhi, India (November 13-16) and (November 19-23)



Training Course on National Accounts Statistics, Maldives (November 25-29)



Training Course on Supervision of Market Risk and Operational Risk for the RBI, Mumbai, India (January 14-18)

Revenue Administration: At the request of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) of India, two back-to-back back (November 13-16 and November 19-23) workshops were organized to train middle management level CBIC officials in the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) methodology, which allows a country to assess its tax administration functions against international good practice benchmarks. This is useful preparation for a future TADAT assessment.

Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation: SARTTAC visited the RBI Academy to partner with in delivering a Supervision of Market and Operational Risk course for the RBI (January 14-18). The course was designed and delivered by SARTTAC to address the specific needs of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The course addressed new approaches taken by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

Table 1. SARTTAC: Forthcoming Activities: February 1, 2019 - April 30, 2019

Government Finance Statistics				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Nepal	TA	GFS/PSDS	February 4-15	Brooks Robinson, IMF SARTTAC
Bhutan	Training	GFS/PSDS	February 25-March 1	Brooks Robinson, IMF SARTTAC and Alberto de Lucio, STX
Sri Lanka	TA	GFS/PSDS	March 1-11	Brooks Robinson, IMF SARTTAC
India	Training	GFS/PSDS	April 3-5	Ethan Weisman, STX and Mike Seiferling, STX
India	Training	GFS/PSDS	April 8-12	Ethan Weisman, STX and Mike Seiferling, STX
SARTTAC	Training	GFS/PSDS	April 8-12	Brooks Robinson, IMF SARTTAC and Ismael Zarco, STX
India	Training	GFS/PSDS	April 17-19	Brooks Robinson, IMF SARTTAC and Udaya Pant, STX
Real Sector Statistics				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Maldives	TA	Consumer Prices/Producer prices	February 3-14	Mari Susanna Ylae Jarkko, STX
Bangladesh	TA	National Accounts	February 17-28	Roger Sceviour, IMF SARTTAC
SARTTAC	Training	Quarterly National Accounts	March 11-15	Roger Sceviour, IMF SARTTAC and Michael Davies, STX
India	TA	National Accounts	March 25-29	Roger Sceviour, IMF SARTTAC
Bhutan	TA	National Accounts	April 1-5	Roger Sceviour, IMF SARTTAC
India	Training	National Accounts	April 29-May 3	Roger Sceviour, IMF SARTTAC
Revenue Administration				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Bangladesh	TA	Compliance Risk Management	February 3-7	Paul Tregillis, STX

Revenue Administration				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Maldives	TA	Review Corporate Reporting Process	February 3-14	Barbara Hebert, STX
Maldives	TA	Compliance Risk Management	February 3-14	Gary Andrews, STX
Bhutan	TA	Assess future TA needs- Indirect Tax Reform work progress	February 6-15	Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC
SARTTAC	Training	Compliance Risk Management	February 11-15	Paul Tregillis, STX and John Box, STX
Bhutan	TA	Collections and Arrears Management	February 18-March 1	Cheryl-Lea Field, STX
Bangladesh	Training	Risk Based Audit Techniques- Income Tax	February 24-28	Gayle Ciceri, STX and Peggy Gavaghan, STX
Maldives	TA	Tax Administration	March 3-14	Expert
Bangladesh	Training	Risk Based Audit Techniques- VAT	March 3-7	Gayle Ciceri, STX and Peggy Gavaghan, STX
Bangladesh	TA	Revenue Forecasting	March 3-14	Expert
Sri Lanka	TA	Develop a cabinet paper on a plan to reform the IRD	March 4-8	Susan Betts, IMF-HQ and Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC
SARTTAC	Training	Organizational Design and Governance	March 4-8	Maureen Kidd, STX and Bill Crandall
Bhutan	TA	Workflow and case management	March 4-15	John McAlister, STX
Sri Lanka	TA	Assessment of PAYE/WHT systems	March 11-22	IMF-HQ and Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC

Revenue Administration				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Bangladesh	TA	Review status of reform activities	March 11-22	Aksel Sorenson, IMF-HQ and Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC
India	TA	Dialogue with Indian Tax Authorities	March 11-22	IMF-HQ
Bhutan	TA	Filing and Processing	March 18-29	John McAlister, STX
Bhutan	TA	Review organization design in alignment with DRC transformation agenda	March 25-29	Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC
Maldives	TA	Review status for reform activities	April 14-25	Margaret Cotton, IMF-HQ and Mark Jackson, IMF SARTTAC
India	TA	Engage in dialogue with Indirect tax officials	April 15-26	Katie Welsh, STX
Maldives	TA	Review operation of the large market segment	April 15-26	Peggy Gavaghan, STX
Public Financial Management				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Bangladesh	TA	Review of the Fiscal Economics and Economic Management Course	February 14-20, 2019	David Todd Gentry, STX
India	Seminar	Seminar on Public Infrastructure	March 11-15, 2019	Lesley Fisher, IMF SARTTAC
SARTTAC	Training	Assessing and Managing Fiscal Risks	March 25-29, 2019	Lesley Fisher, IMF SARTTAC

Public Financial Management				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
India	Training	PFM for State Governments	April 1-5, 2019	Lesley Fisher, IMF SARTTAC
Sri Lanka	Training	Fiscal Analysis and Forecasting	April 22-26, 2019	Lesley Fisher, IMF SARTTAC, Andrew Ceber, IMF SARTTAC
Maldives	TA	Developing Sectoral Investment Plans and Preparing a Financing Plan for the 5 year Infrastructure Plan	April 23- May 1, 2019	Duncan Paul Last, STX and Willie du Preez, STX
SARTTAC	Training	Gender Responsive Budgeting with TAOLAM	April 29-May 3, 2019	Lesley Fisher, IMF SARTTAC
Financial Sector Supervision and Regulation				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Maldives	TA	Advice MMA on Financial Supervision and Regulation	February 17-28	Mimi Sze Ho, STX
SARTTAC	Training	Core Elements of Banking Supervision	April 1-5	Jacques Loubert, IMF SARTTAC
Nepal	TA	Strengthening Supervisory Capacity at Nepal Rastra Bank	April	Jacques Loubert, IMF SARTTAC
Bhutan	TA	Advice RMA on Financial Supervision and Regulation	April	Expert

Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Bangladesh	TA	Modernizing Monetary Policy Framework	March 24-April 5	Stefaan Ide, IMF SARTTAC and Michel Dombrecht, STX and Alain Vandepuete, STX
Bhutan	Attachment	Monetary Policy Implementation	March	Stefaan Ide, IMF SARTTAC
Macro-Fiscal Analysis				
Country	Type	Subject	Date	Expert(s)
Bhutan	Training	Financial Programming and Policies-Customized Training	March 18-March 22	Andrew Ceber, IMF SARTTAC
SARTTAC	Seminar	High Level Seminar for South Asian Parliamentarians	March 25-29	Mangal Goswami, IMF SARTTAC
Sri Lanka	Training	Financial Programming and Polices	April 8-19	Mangal Goswami, IMF SARTTAC and Ales Bulir, IMF-HQ and Adam Remo, IMF-HQ
Sri Lanka	Training	Monetary Policy Analysis and Forecasting	April 22-26	Mangal Goswami, IMF SARTTAC and Adam Remo, IMF-HQ
India	Training	Macro-Fiscal Forecasting and Policy Analysis (National and Sub-national)	April 29-May 3	Ritu Basu, IMF-HQ and Andrew Ceber, IMF SARTTAC


Table 2. SARTTAC: TA Reports Recently Disseminated on SARTTAC's Secured Website

Report of the Financial Soundness Indicators Mission (September 4-15, 2017)	RSS	Nepal
Strategic Priorities Progress Review and Next Steps (October 24-November 7, 2017)	PFM	Maldives
A Roadmap for Developing It Support for a Public Debt Management Agency (November 13-24, 2017)	PFM	India
Strengthening Budget Formulation and Public Investment Management (January 6-17, 2018)	PFM	Maldives

Table 2. SARTTAC: TA Reports Recently Disseminated on SARTTAC's Secured Website

Financial Supervision and Regulation at the Maldives Monetary Authority: Strengthening Supervisory Capacity (January 28-February 1, 2018)	MCM	Maldives
Report on Government Finance Statistics Mission (February 12-16, 2018)	GFS	Bhutan
Financial Supervision and Regulation at the Bangladesh Bank: Strengthening Supervisory Capacity (April 17-26, 2018)	MCM	Bangladesh
Revamping the Monetary Policy Statement of the Royal Monetary Authority and Supporting Measures (May 10-18, 2018)	MCM	Bhutan
External Sector Statistics Technical Assistance Mission Report (July 1-12, 2018)	RSS	Bangladesh
Assist MIRA with the implementation of a Compliance and Institutional Risk Management System (July 1-12, 2018)	RA	Maldives
Report on Government Finance Statistics Mission (August 13-22, 2018)	GFS	Bhutan

Upcoming IMF online courses

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