

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

No. 5(1)/2024-Admn-I/HR-I

Islamabad, the 16th February, 2024

CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: - **INVITATION TO THE WEBINARS COURSE ON "MEASURING DIGITAL TRADE" ON 6TH MARCH 2024**

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of self explanatory letter No. UNESCAP-XI/2024, dated 8th February, 2024 along with its enclosure received from Parep Bangkok, on the above mentioned subject for placing on the website of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. **Interested/relevant** officers from **Main Ministry** who fulfill the eligibility criteria may send their nominations, duly approved by their respective Head(s) of the Wing(s)/Departments to HR-I Section, latest by **20-02-2024 positively**. ***Nominations received after the deadline will not be entertained.***

Encl: **As Above**



(Aamir Waheed)
Section Officer (HR-I)

Database Administrator,
✓ Ministry of Commerce,
Islamabad

E-Message

From : Parep Bangkok
To : Foreign Islamabad
Rptd : i. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
ii. Ministry of Commerce
iii. Ministry of Finance and Revenue
iv. Federal Board of Revenue
v. Economic Affairs Division
No : UNESCAP-XI/2024
Dated : 8 February 2024

B/4-28

Director General (UN) from Counsellor/DPR
Copy to: AS (AP), Dir (UN-III)

Repeated to: Chief Statistician, PBS (chiefstat@pbs.gov.pk)
Secretary Finance (secretary@finance.gov.pk)
Secretary Commerce (secretary@commerce.gov.pk)
Chairman FBR, (chairman@fbr.gov.pk)
DS (UN), EAD (dsun@ead.gov.pk), SO (UN-II), EAD (soun2@ead.gov.pk)

Subject: Invitation to the Webinars course on "Measuring Digital Trade" on 6 March 2024

Enclosed please find an invitation received from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) of the UNESCAP regarding the subject of webinar course being organized on 6 March 2024. Course guidelines are also attached.

2. This webinar will provide the participants with a clear understanding of the importance of measuring digital trade, and the conceptual framework for measuring digital trade whilst focusing on the fundamental concepts and statistical definitions. It will also emphasize the importance of digital trade statistics in evidence-based policy making.

3. The Ministry is requested to forward the above invitation to the concerned Ministry/Division particularly Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of finance & Revenue, Federal Board of Revenue, Customs and State Bank of Pakistan. The webinar is also recommended for users of digital trade statistics and those interested in learning more about measuring digital trade. Nominated participants may fill out the nomination form at <https://forms.office.com/e/MqKTU316V2> by 29 February 2024, under intimation to this Mission at parepbangkok@mofa.gov.pk.

Enclosed: As above.

Respectful Regards,

(Fatza Haseeb)



UNITED NATIONS - NATIONS UNIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)
JETRO IDE Bldg., 2-2 Wakaba 3-chome, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba 261-8787, Japan

TRG/W/MDT/2024

5 February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Webinar on Measuring Digital Trade
6 March 2024

INVITATION

I am pleased to inform you that our Webinar on Measuring Digital Trade will be organized on 6 March 2024.

The IMF-OECD-UNCTAD-WTO handbook on measuring digital trade defines digital trade as "all international trade that is digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered". This definition, which has been endorsed by countries through international consultation, serves as the foundation for a conceptual measurement framework that aligns seamlessly with broader macroeconomic accounts.

Digital trade transactions are a subset of existing trade transactions, as measured in international merchandise trade statistics and international trade in services statistics. Digitalization increases the involvement of small firms and households in international trade. Traditional data sources, which often rely on data from large firms, may not fully capture this involvement. This discrepancy presents challenges in measurement.

This webinar will provide the participants with a clear understanding of the importance of measuring digital trade, and the conceptual framework for measuring digital trade whilst focusing on the fundamental concepts and statistical definitions. A variety of examples and practical applications will be shared by country representatives. The webinar will also emphasize the importance of digital trade statistics in evidence-based policy making.

The target audience for these webinars are entry, mid-level and high-level government officials with the responsibility for collection, compilation, and dissemination of international trade statistics. These include, national statistics offices (NSOs), ministries of foreign affairs and foreign trade, trade boards, Customs, Tax Offices, ministries of finance and central banks and similar organizations.

I am pleased to invite you to nominate your officials for the webinar. Nominees from your office as well as other offices (e.g., Ministries of foreign affairs and foreign trade, trade boards, Customs, Tax Offices, ministries of finance and central banks and similar organizations.) that you think will benefit from the webinars are most welcome. The webinar is also recommended for users of digital trade statistics and those interested in learning more about measuring digital trade.

Central Tel: (81 43) 299 9782 • Central Fax: (81 43) 299 9780
Director's Office Tel: (81 43) 299-9796 • Fax: (81 43) 299-2521 • Email: escap-siap@un.org

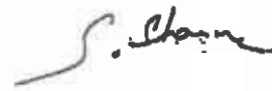
Nominated participants should fill out the nomination form at the following link.

<https://forms.office.com/e/MqKTU316V2>

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 29 February 2024.

SIAP and partners value our common goals of statistical capacity building and look forward to a successful run of this webinar series.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Sharma', written in a cursive style.

**Shailja Sharma
Director**

Attachment: Concept note

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WEBINAR ON MEASURING DIGITAL TRADE

6 March 2024

Concept Note

I. Background

The IMF-OECD-UNCTAD-WTO Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade defines digital trade as “all international trade that is digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered”. This definition, which has been endorsed by countries through international consultation, serves as the foundation for a conceptual measurement framework that aligns seamlessly with broader macroeconomic accounts.

Digital trade transactions are a subset of existing trade transactions, as measured in international merchandise trade statistics and international trade in services statistics. Digitalization increases the involvement of small firms and households in international trade. Traditional data sources, which often rely on data from large firms, may not fully capture this involvement. This discrepancy presents challenges in measurement.

To address these challenges effectively, it is imperative to reassess the existing data sources in terms of their coverage and accuracy. This not only facilitates the development of digital trade statistics but also enhances the measurement of international trade.

This webinar will provide the participants with a clear understanding of the importance of measuring digital trade, and the conceptual framework for measuring digital trade whilst focusing on the fundamental concepts and statistical definitions. A variety of examples and practical applications will be shared by country representatives. The webinar will also emphasize the importance of digital trade statistics in evidence-based policy making.

II. Target audience

The target audience for these webinars are entry, mid-level and high-level government officials with the responsibility for collection, compilation, and dissemination of international trade statistics. These include, national statistics offices (NSOs), ministries of foreign affairs and foreign trade, trade boards, Customs, Tax Offices, ministries of finance and central banks and similar organizations.

The webinar is also recommended for users of digital trade statistics and those interested in learning more about measuring digital trade.

The main objectives of the webinar are:

1. Establish the importance of digital trade.
2. Understand the conceptual framework for digital trade.
3. Introduce sources and methods for measuring digital trade.
4. Provide a comprehensive range of examples and practical applications to start measuring digital trade.
5. Emphasize the importance of disseminating digital trade statistics from the policy perspective.

III. Structure and content

This webinar will be organized on 6 March and will last for 2 hours. It will commence with substantive presentations of the topics by experts followed by a discussion session. The webinar will be conducted in English without interpretation. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with the presenters orally.

Time (Japan Standard Time)	Agenda
3:00pm-3:05pm	Welcome remarks (SIAP)
3:05pm-3:50pm	-Conceptual framework (UNCTAD Digital Economy and Policy Research Section) -Country cases of data collection, compiling and dissemination
3:50pm-4:00pm	Stretch Break
4:00pm-4:40pm	-Country cases of data collection, compiling and dissemination -Using digital trade statistics in policy making (ESCAP Trade, Investment and Innovation Division)
4:40-5:00	Q&A

IV. Access to the webinar presentations

The webinar will be recorded, and subsequently, the recordings and presentations will be accessible on the SIAP website.