

## Preface

The Environmental-Economic Account provides information pertaining to variations in environment and resources by documenting the relationship between economic activities and the environment. It does this to reflect the impact effects that economic development has on the degree of utilization of all aspects of the environment and natural resources.

In order to promote this project, the Executive Yuan announced its policy address to the Legislative Yuan in February 1998 that the government intended to attempt to compile Taiwan's Environmental-Economic Account. In October of that same year, the Article 29 of Budget Act was amended to stipulate that the Executive Yuan should try to compile the Environmental-Economic Account.

The Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) completed the first edition report for the trial compilation results of the country's Environmental-Economic Account in 2000. In the following years, it continued to compile year-by-year reports while studying and analyzing international development trends and guidelines. On November 30, 2016, Taiwan amended the Article 29 of the Budget Act, amending "the Executive Yuan shall try to compile the Environmental-Economic Account" to "the Executive Yuan shall compile the Environmental-Economic Account". This reaffirmed the government's determination to take environmental sustainability seriously.

The contents of this publication are according to the guideline of the United Nations' System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Since their official announcement in 1993, these guidelines have been constantly studied, reviewed and amended. After from the completion of the amended edition in 2003, the latest international statistics standard guideline—the SEEA Central Framework— was also published in 2012 for all countries to follow.

Using the SEEA as a blueprint, Taiwan's Environmental-Economic Account takes into account the conditions under which the country's environmental resources are impacted by its economic activities, as well as all activities related to the environment. It features the three main themes of Environmental Pollution, Natural Resources, and Environmental Activities to plan a complete accounting statement structure. Environmental Pollution primarily show the physical flow accounts, emission

accounts, quality accounts and degradation accounts for air, water and solid wastes. In addition, it only plans quality accounts for soil and groundwater which is environmental sinks. Natural Resources primarily show the physical asset accounts, physical flow accounts and depletion accounts for minerals, earth and rocks, as well as water resources. Finally, Environmental Activities, show accounting contents related to environmental protection expenditures, as well as environmental payments to the government (i.e., taxes, subsidies, fees and rents, etc. related to the environment).

The contents of this publication are divided into three major parts: analysis of compilation results, explanation of the compilation & calculation, and Appendix.

As the Environmental-Economic Account encompasses an enormous scope while requiring a great deal of information and data, the DGBAS has only been able to complete the compilation and calculation of each edition on time thanks to the passionate assistance given by government agencies, experts and scholars over the years. The Directorate-General would like to express its gratitude to all of them here. However, given the sheer size and complexities of this compilation, negligence and omissions may still be unavoidable. Your reminders and corrections are most welcome, as they will help make this publication more comprehensive and complete.

Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics  
Executive Yuan, Republic of China