

## **Fifth Group Training Course in Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics**

Above training course was conducted in SIAP premises for 2 months from 13 July-11 September 2009 for the Middle-level statisticians from developing countries in the ESCAP region as well as non-ESCAP region. Course was organized by SIAP jointly with JICA. The participants of the course improved their knowledge on the key concepts, principles of macroeconomic accounting and the framework of the 1993/2008 System of National Accounts (SNA). The participants learned about various economic data required for the compilation of national accounts and other economic statistics..

In total, 21 participants from 18 countries completed the course. Countries included were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand and Zambia. Participants are those who engaged in data production—in particular, those who analyze, interpret and prepare statistical reports for policy makers, planners and other decision makers on Economic statistics who have a basic understanding of the nature, sources and techniques of compilation of economic data produced and used in their respective countries. SIAP faculty members as well as experts from Japanese government conducted the training sessions. The experts from India and IMF also delivered lectures and practical exercises on important topics relating to the System of National Accounts and Financial Accounts and Balance of Payments.

Topics on Modern database management systems and use of software, Presentation skills, Report writing and Training techniques were also included enabling them to present their project work and action plan prepared. Lectures, Group discussions and case studies, Hands-on exercises, Presentations by participants and an undertaking of an individual project work

Participants undertook a project work in which the knowledge gained from the course was applied and prepared a report and they showed a very keen interest in their project work which they carried out during the final two weeks of the course. Inclusion of more exercise sessions during the course proved to be very effective. The project work also kept participants' attention intact throughout the course. Participants also observed with interest the prefecture level statistical activities and advanced technological application in the industries in Japan while enjoying the rich cultural and social values experienced during the field visits.

Most of participants felt confident that after the completion of the training course they will be able to: define, analyze and interpret key official economic statistics and indicators in support of policy analysis, write and present a report incorporating the results of statistical analyses and interpretation of economic data.