

Area-focused training course in collection and analysis of official economic statistics for central Asian countries

Area-focused training course in collection and analysis of official economic statistics for Central Asian countries was conducted from 21 July to 18 September 2009 in Chiba, Japan. This was part of the Tokyo-based regular programme jointly organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Five participants from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in this two-month course.

The course was designed principally to train government statisticians/officials who deal with data collection and data analysis in economic statistics, including compilation of system of macroeconomic aggregates in their respective countries. The course was in English with interpretation into Russian. In countries of Central Asia, official statisticians' experience and skills are not always sufficient to produce economic statistics that are needed for policy decisions, planning, and monitoring. Participants of this training course improved their knowledge and skills in important areas of economic statistics, including the 2008 System of National Accounts, and strengthened their skills in statistical computation and data analysis using STATA software.

The visit to the Yamagata prefecture government office expanded their knowledge about statistical operations carried out at prefecture level, field operations in collection of price data for Retail Price Survey, and cooperation between central and local government offices in production and dissemination of official statistics in Japan. Participants visited the Statistics Bureau of Japan as well.

The participants had a great opportunity to observe money flow and price movements in the economy by visiting the Central Bank of Japan. The visit to the Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is one of the largest stock markets in the World along with the Wall Street of New York and the City of London, enrich participants' understanding about stock market operations.

Participants also had opportunity to improve their knowledge on important technical and policy issues of concern to NSOs by attending lectures specially arranged for them at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

As a culmination of the training, each participant carried out small-scale project work on topics related to economic statistics under the guidance of a assigned faculty and developed an Action Plan to be implemented upon return home. The project work was useful exercise to help participant to apply knowledge and skills that they have acquired during the training.