

## **Fifth Group Training Course in Application of Information and Communications Technology to Production and Dissemination of Official Statistics**

The fifth Group Training Course in Application of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to Production and Dissemination of Official Statistics concluded at the SIAP premises in Chiba prefecture, Japan, on 10 July 2009. This is one of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based regular programme jointly organised by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and held from 11 May to 10 July 2009. This course aims to improve the quality and efficiency of services delivered by government statistical offices through effective the use of appropriate ICT tools and resources.

Thirteen participants from twelve countries participated in this two month long course. They were statisticians or computer specialists in government statistical offices and are involved in the use of ICT in their statistical works and are expected to serve as core officials to develop ICT based government statistical system. The major thrusts of the course were on the Applicable technologies for Statistical Processes and the project work. During the project work participants successfully used software such as CSPRO, STATA, Front Page, IHSN tool kit and other covered during the course. Participants also presented their project output at the end of the training. They have developed their action plans to be implemented after their return to their countries. With their action plans they will impart their newly acquired knowledge to their colleagues. The result will be reported to SIAP within 6 months after their return.

Besides SIAP faculty members experts from the World Bank, the Statistics Bureau of Japan, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Fujitsu, Japan Manned Space System Corporation and Tokushima University, Japan contributed in the course.

Participants visited Statistics Bureau in Tokyo, Japan, and attended presentations on aspects data capturing, processing and dissemination of statistical data. They were also given demonstrations of hand held data collection equipments used in price data collections and a tour of data processing section. They also learned about the new statistical act in Japan. They visited NTT Data Inforum and Hitachi Cyber Government Square to see how ICT is used for data collection and decision making as well as World Bank Tokyo office to experience live video conferencing and GIS laboratory in Chiba University, a national university of Japan, to have lectures on GIS systems. Participants visited local government's statistical office in Hokkaido Prefecture as part of their field work and learned how they contribute into local and national statistical surveys, accompanied enumerators to see how price data are collected using appropriate ICT tools in real situations

The course equipped participants with different aspects of ICT and how it could be used to increase productivity in all aspects of the operations of a national statistical organization (NSO), more importantly its production and dissemination, and to understand the possible implications on its organization and logistics upon adoption of such technology. A formal evaluation of the course revealed that most participants found the course was useful to their office and their confidence in implementing work upon return home were much improved

Further details are also available on the SIAP website ([www.unsiap.or.jp](http://www.unsiap.or.jp)).