

Workshop on Meeting the Statistical Information Needs for Policy

Forth Regional Course/Workshop on Statistical Quality Management and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 21 - 25 September 2009 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea

SIAP conducted the Forth Regional Course/Workshop on Statistical Quality Management and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, in collaboration with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) of Republic of Korea, and with the support of ESCAP. The course/workshop was held from 21 to 25 September 2009 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The venue was the newly constructed Statistical Training Institute (STI) building and this training course was the first one for the international participants.

The course/workshop was originally designed to introduce and provide deputy heads of national statistical offices (NSOs) in the region with the fundamental principles of official statistics (FPOS) and concepts of statistical data quality requirements, and role of NSOs in meeting the information needs for policy analysis and monitoring alleviation of poverty and income inequalities in the Asia and the Pacific.

In total, 21 participants participated in the course/workshop: one each from Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Islamic Republic of Iran; Lao PDR; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga and Viet Nam; and two participants from host country.

Resource persons were Mr. Furuta, Lecturer/Statistician of SIAP and course director, Ms. Ericta, SIAP consultant, and Mr. Manzano, staff and economist of Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP. It was the first trial in this series of workshops to invite an economist as a lecturer and to facilitate communication between data producers and data users.

Mr. Furuta conducted the course orientation session, followed by Ms. Ericta's lectures of interpretation of each FPOS. Participants were divided into four groups. She organized and

guided three group work sessions: (i) to identify the major users and specific users of population census and to describe the statistical products for each type of user, and channels for each product, (ii) to prepare a plan for launching the new series, change of which is due to rebasing, revised classification, change in methodology or change in concept, to prevent confusion, misinterpretation, and misuse, and (iii) to discuss mechanisms for statistical coordination and how to implement those mechanism. Participants actively made discussions even after the class.

After that, Mr. Manzano delivered lectures on current economic crisis and its impact on economic and social indicators such as poverty, inequality and unemployment, by using the recent edition of ESCAP flagship publication “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2009”. Mr. Manzano and Mr. Furuta guided group work on comparative analysis of the countries on economic vulnerability and on poverty, inequality and unemployment. Each group made excellent presentation on required questions as well as action for improving the policy relevance statistics.

Finally, Mr. Furuta summarized the course/workshop and conducted the evaluation session. Outcomes of the course/workshop were (i) identified data gaps in terms of its quality and availability in meeting users’ requirements and identified priorities, (ii) prepared an outline of action for improving the policy relevance of statistics, and (iii) ability to communicate with economists/policy makers.

The participants’ evaluation and speeches indicated that all participants found the course/workshop relevant to their work, and they were satisfied with course/workshop level and contents. Also the evaluation of participants was evidenced by the presentations of group works.

All 21 participants successfully completed the course/workshop and received the certificates of the course/workshop completion. Towards our common goal in support of achieving MDGs, the participants are expected to implement the proposed action plan as the result of

group works after returning their home countries.

