

**Eighth Management Seminar for the Heads
of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific
3 - 5 November 2009, New Delhi, India**

SIAP conducted the 8th Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific from 3 to 5 November 2009, New Delhi, India. The Seminar was jointly organized by SIAP, UNSD and the Government of India through its Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MSPI), with support from the Statistics Division of ESCAP and participation by the World Bank.

The theme of this year's seminar was "Strategies for Achieving Effective Data Communication". Objectives of the seminar were to strengthen capability in the area of leadership and management of data communication with a view to enhancing statistical capacities in support of economic and social development, and to provide an opportunity to exchange views and to share experiences in managing the development of data communication by national statistical offices.

In total, 33 participants including 12 heads of NSOs from 24 countries attended the seminar; Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China; Hong Kong, China; India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

The seminar was held at the conference room of NASC (National Agricultural Science Center) Complex, while the morning session on Day 2 at the MSPI premises.

In the opening ceremony, Dr. Pronab Sen, Chief Statistician of India delivered keynote speech and highlighted the importance of communication strategies in light of the enormous changes that have taken place in the environment within which the official statistical systems operate.

The seminar consisted of four sessions; Session 1: Data communication standards: principles and components; Session 2: Communication with data suppliers: strategies and tactics; Session 3: Communication with data users: strategies and tactics; Session 4: Enhancing the visibility and image of statistical agencies: strategies and tactics.

In the session 1, Mr. Olivier Dupriez, Senior Economist, World Bank made presentation on data communication standards.

In each of the Session 2 to 4, key presentation was delivered by Mr. John Cornish and Mr. Frederick W H Ho, followed by presentations on country case as well as group work. Participants were grouped into four, discussed on the specific topic related to the session theme, and made presentation on the group work result at the plenary session.

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

The meeting was the eighth annual management seminar, which began in 2002 in order to further strengthen the capacities of leaders of the national statistical systems to promote economic and social development. The seminar noted that statistical communication was not limited to the flow of data but covered also contextual information, such as what they exactly referred to and why they were collected. It also noted that hardware and new technology could not replace a good strategy for engaging the producers and users of data.

