

**Country Training Course on
Analysis, Interpretation and Research in Statistics
Maldives, 12-22 October 2009**

SIAP conducted a country course on Analysis, Interpretation and Research in Statistics in Maldives aiming to improve the capacity of national statistical systems in the country to produce a range of official statistics that are required for planning and decision making in both the public and private sectors. The course was designed principally to train statisticians who are in the middle of their professional careers on the application of statistical methods and techniques to analyse, interpret and disseminate official statistics. This is intended to meet the growing expectations of governments and policy makers that statistics provided by national statistical offices should be accompanied by more statistical analysis and interpretation of data. It will also help improving the socio-economic indicator databases needed for the implementation and monitoring of programmes on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Course consisting 3 modules covered the following topics: Module 1: Principles in Research Methodology ;Module 2: Review of Data Analysis (Inferential Statistics, Univariate, Bivariate Multivariate and Time series analysis, Index numbers) Module 3: Report writing and presentation including a mini project work done by the participants.

The course was conducted for 9 working days. In total there were 20 participants attended and completed the course. Representatives from NSO, Central Bank of Maldives, Officials from ministries of trade, labour, finance, health, justice and office of customs participated. Course was conducted at the premises of the Faculty of Education as a final module in the higher diploma course in statistics conducted by the faculty of education. Participants showed keen interest in acquiring knowledge on the subject and improving their statistical literacy.

The Deputy Executive Director and the head of National Planning Department (NPD), Ms. Aishath Shauda inaugurated the course and emphasized the relevance and importance of the course and the need to provide more information with data using analysis and proper interpretation. Usefulness of the course in better monitoring the country's socio economic development was highlighted.

SIAP faculty member Mr. Gamini de Silva conducted the course with assistance from a resource person from the NPD, Mr. Idham Fahumy, a senior staff member.

The participants' evaluation and speeches in the closing ceremony indicated that all the participants had gained valuable knowledge from the course and acknowledged the usefulness of the mini project that was introduced in the course and requested to continue such work in the future. NPD showed a keen interest in involving SIAP in its capacity building programmes.

Permanent secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Ismail Shafeeq was present to give away the certificates and appreciated the contributions made by SIAP in the country's development activities. Dean, faculty of education Mr. Asim Abdul Sattar participated in both opening and closing ceremonies and delivered speeches encouraging collaborative efforts.