

FIRST GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN APPLICATION OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ICT FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Above training course was conducted at SIAP premises for 2 months from 10 May - 09 July 2010 for the Middle-level statisticians, a mix of Level 3 and Level 4 Statisticians as defined in the Core Skill Framework introduced by SIAP, from developing countries in the ESCAP region as well as outside region. Course was organized by SIAP jointly with JICA. The aim of the course was to improve the quality and efficiency of services delivered by government statistical offices through the use of ICT. In particular, the course aimed to equip participants with different aspects of ICT to increase productivity in all phases of the operations of their national statistical organizations. Emphasis was placed upon production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics, and to understand the possible implications upon adoption of ICT technology.

22 participants from 14 countries completed the course. Countries included were Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cooks Island, Ethiopia, India, Kosovo, Rwanda, Samoa, Solomon Island, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Participants were those who are already familiar with the use of computers in their work for processing and management of data in their respective offices. SIAP faculty members as well as resource persons from the Japanese government conducted the training sessions. A resource person from India was invited to deliver sessions on CSPro software applications in survey data processing.

It is trusted that participants are now able to: Better understand the need and use of appropriate ICT tools and resources in the production and dissemination of official statistics. Improve the ability to carryout ICT needs analysis within department / the statistical offices. Use different software packages in the domain of data capture, data processing, data analysis, data management and data dissemination and associated international standards. Share knowledge and experience with affordable statistical software including CSPro, 'R', MSAccess, STATA, DevInfo and IHSN toolkit. Gain ability to train local staff using improved presentation techniques.

Course content included the following topics:

- Information architecture of national statistical system
- Data capture and data processing systems and software
- Statistical database systems and software
- Micro Data dissemination systems and software
- Data analysis techniques and software
- Learning from Japan
- Training of trainers, presentation techniques and software
- Project Work/Action Plan by Participants

Participants undertook a project work in which the knowledge gained from the course was applied and a report was prepared and presented. They demonstrated keen interest in their project work which they carried out during the final two weeks of the course. Inclusion of more exercise sessions during the course proved to be very effective. The project work also kept participants' attention in tact throughout the course. Participants also observed with interest the prefectural level ICT usage in statistical and other real-time applications including advanced technological application in the industries in Japan while enjoying the rich cultural and social values experienced during the field visits.

At the closing ceremony, SIAP director and representatives of JICA and MIC delivered their warm congratulatory messages to the participants. This year's Director's Prize, given to the best performing participant, was presented to Ms Chetna Shukla from India.