

Country Training Course on Sampling Design:
Elements of Sample Design
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
19th – 23rd December 2011

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia and the World Bank, conducted a Country Training Course on the sampling from 19th to 23rd December 2011 at the National Statistical Office, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The main objective of the course was to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices in designing sample surveys and reviewing the current sampling strategies for improving the quality and coverage of survey results.

A total of 23 participants – 5 from the National Statistics Office of Mongolia; 1 from Mongol (Central) Bank and 7 academicians from Universities of Mongolia and 4 from other Government offices – attended the training course. All the participants were selected by the Statistics Mongolia.

Most of the participants were either middle-level government statisticians with long experience in survey sampling or academicians engaged in teaching statistics in Universities of Mongolia. Some of the participants were, however, new to the field of survey sampling.

The discussions and the issues raised by the participants indicate that all the participants could gain a fairly comprehensive understanding of the elements of sample design. In addition, those with little exposure to sampling techniques got a chance of getting familiar with the basic concepts and definitions. The course is expected to have equipped the participants with the ability to make appropriate choice of sampling strategies with the available resources and suggest application of techniques for improving the quality survey results.

In spite of the diverse levels of exposure to sampling in practice, a majority of the participants (75 %) stated that the course level was just right, while others found it at an advanced level. The course content was found to be ‘useful’ by all and ‘very useful’ by about a half of the participants. But, about 25 % of the participants found the duration of the course too short. All participants thought the course was relevant to their work. The course materials/handouts were assessed positively by the participants, most them (94%) rating them either ‘very good’ or ‘good’. Presentation techniques were rated either ‘good’ (25%) or ‘very good’ (75%) by the participants.