

SIAP completed its 1st e-learning course

The SIAP has conducted its first e-learning course, which has come to end on 31 December 2011 after two months duration since 1 November 2011. The title of the course was “Introduction to System of National Accounts”. In all, 36 participants from 8 countries - Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, and Thailand - participated in the course.

The course was designed to give the participants an overview of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA), including: 1) Basic concepts and definitions, 2) Scope and structure of the system, 3) Accounting system and rules, and 4) Some characteristics of 2008 SNA. The course level was very preliminary one and thus no prior knowledge on SNA was required.

The training course consisted of three lessons, namely Introduction to SNA, an overview, Parts I, II and III. To start with, a common lecture note for all the three lessons and three separate power point presentations were put on the system. Participants were also provided with guidelines on how to use the system. Later, supplementary notes were also placed on the system in response to certain queries made by the participants.

How to use their time during the 2 months’ duration of the course was left entirely up to the participants. During the entire period, the participants could use the system at anytime and from any place where the Internet was accessible. When participants had some questions on the text materials or presentations or other reference documents, they could post them on the Q&A corner of the opening page provided for each lesson. The SIAP lecturers gave answers/ guidance to each of them on the same Q&A corner. This helped the participants to understand the lessons correctly. All the participants could see the interactions of other participants with the SIAP faculty and thus the online dialogue helped them all.

After finishing all the lessons, participants were requested to try a test of 30 questions. Participants were free to repeat the test for improving their score. When the test score was 27 (90%) or more, it was recognized that the participant had successfully completed the course. If the maximum score one could secure was less than 90%, he/she was recognized as just participated in the course. Those who did not take the test at all were,

unfortunately, not recognized as participants of the course. While more than three quarters of attendees have successfully completed the course, several of them failed to try the test.

The e-learning system utilized for the course has been developed by the University of Tokushima, a national university in Japan. Conducting e-learning courses is a part of SIAP's training programme on official statistics, supplementing its regular Tokyo-Metropolitan-Area (TMA) based training courses and outreach programme.

This e-learning system is currently *open only to limited number of statistical officials invited by SIAP*. The Institute will improve the service to invite wider range of stakeholders, both producers and users of official statistics, to this programme.