

Country Training Course on Survey Methodology
for Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics,
Chiba, Japan
30th May – 3rd June 2011

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, conducted a Country Training Course on Survey Methodology for Industrial Statistics from 30th May to 3rd June 2011 at the SIAP, Japan. The main objective of the course was to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for improving its Industrial Statistics.

The course provided a comprehensive view of the issues and topics relating to collection of data on manufacturing sector through surveys, processing of establishment survey data and their use for official statistical work. Specifically, the course enhanced the participants' understanding of the scope and alternative sources of data, methods of data collection and international recommendations for industrial statistics. Participants were also introduced to the related issues, for instance inadequate frames, incomplete responses, response errors, and faulty data processing systems, and techniques for improving quality of survey results using appropriate estimation procedures, editing and imputation.

Besides a comprehensive view of the standard practices and international recommendations on Industrial Statistics, the participants also got an exposure to the system of collection and compilation of Industrial Statistics in Japan.

A total of 9 participants from different units of BBS Headquarters as well as its Regional Offices participated in the training course. All the participants were selected by the BBS. It was a mixed group of experienced and freshly-recruited officials engaged in various stages of survey sampling for Industrial Statistics in Bangladesh.

Two-thirds of the participants found the course level was just right, while others found it at an advanced level. The course content was found to be 'very useful' by all but one participant. But, two-thirds of the participants found the duration of the course too short. Four of them even suggested that the topics covered during the course needed at least 10 days of detailed discussion. All the participants thought the course was relevant to their work. The course materials/handouts and the presentation techniques were both assessed positively by the participants, most of them (80%) rating both as 'very good'.

In accordance with the Core Skill Framework, more practical sessions were included in the course, which proved to be very effective and was appreciated by all the participants. Most of the participants found the time allocated for discussions adequate. The discussions and the issues raised during these sessions indicate that all the participants could gain a fairly comprehensive understanding of (i) the framework of economic statistics – 2008 SNA, (ii) scope of industrial statistics, (iii) possible strategies for collection of industrial statistics, (iv) appropriate sample designs and (v) issues relating to processing of manufacturing survey data. The course is expected to have equipped the

participants with the basic ideas of the issues relating to survey data quality in practical survey work and develop suitable methods of resolving them.