

**FIRST GROUP TRAINING COURSE IN PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
INCLUDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGS  
15 Nov. 2010-15 Mar. 2011**

Above training course was conducted in the premises of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) for four months from 15 November 2010-15 March 2011 for the junior and middle-level statisticians from developing countries in the ESCAP region as well as outside region. Course was organized by SIAP jointly with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The aim of the course was to improve knowledge and skills of the participants on compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. It is expected that after the completion of the training course participants will be able to define, analyze and interpret key official statistics and MDG related indicators in support of policy analysis as well as to demonstrate ability to carry out and take part with understanding full survey operations and to have a good understanding of SNA framework and compilation of main economic aggregates including GDP.

All together 25 participants from 16 countries participated in the course and 22 participants completed the full course of three modules. Vietnam participants numbering three, participated only in the first module. Other countries included were Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, India, Lao P. D.R., Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Syria, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Zambia.

The project work also kept participants attention in tact through out the course. Participants also observed with interest the prefectural level statistical activities and advanced technological application in the industries in Japan while enjoying the rich cultural and social values experienced during the field visits.

Though final week's activities were restricted due to prevailed uncondusive environment owing to the aftermath of the earthquake, all agreed that the course met with the objectives and expected accomplishments of the course. Finally arrangements were made by JICA for participants' early and safe departure from Tokyo to their home countries.