Message from Mr. LeRoy Hollenbeck
Head of United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of SIAP
Tokyo, Japan
31 August 2010

On behalf of all us at UNAPCAEM, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Director, Madame Davaasuren Chultemjamts, and to all the members of SIAP-ESCAP, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. The advances and substantive achievements made by SIAP throughout the Asia-Pacific region over the years have been appreciated by countless many.

SIAP-ESCAP was founded to substantively address the serious shortage of skilled statisticians and lack of national and international statistical training facilities in the Asia-Pacific region. Without its establishment, the United Nation's mission in the region would have suffered. Today, SIAP-ESCAP is a leading institution providing statistical training to colleagues and partners in developing countries. It has trained well over ten thousand government statisticians, more than a quarter of them at SIAP-ESCAP headquarters, with the rest at regional workshops and programmes throughout the ESCAP region. This is a tremendous achievement since the organization's establishment in 1970.

Because of SIAP-ESCAP efforts to strengthen the capability of developing countries of the region to collect, analyze and disseminate statistics, as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics, the UN has made measurable strides toward achieving the MDGs. SIAP-ESCAP is to be commended for its ongoing efforts to assist developing countries in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability.

Please accept this congratulatory message as an open invitation for closer collaboration between our two institutions, working together in applying accurate and useful statistics toward enhancing sustainable agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods and creating a more integrated and inclusive Asia-Pacific region - - free from poverty, free from hunger and free from want.