



**Congratulatory Message on the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of SIAP-ESCAP**

On behalf of the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Bangkok, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the management and staff of SIAP on the occasion of SIAP's 40th Anniversary. Kudos to SIAP for four decades of dedicated service to the cause of statistical capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although UNFPA APRO set up office in the region only two years ago, our two organizations working together have initiated and built the basis for cooperation through two consecutive Annual Work Programmes, and it is my hope that this cooperation and collaboration will strengthen further in the years ahead.

Part of the UNFPA's strategic vision is to build a long-lasting partnership with excellent regional institutions that will help us deliver technical and programmatic assistance to our programme countries. In this connection, I see the role of SIAP in supporting us build statistical capacity of national counterparts in identified areas relevant to UNFPA work, i.e. population and development, reproductive health, and gender equality/women's empowerment. In terms of statistical development, UNFPA plays a role in supporting Governments in (a) Population and Housing Censuses, (b) Population-Related Thematic Surveys, and (c) Data for Development. In the Asia-Pacific Region, UNFPA is an active player with respect to the implementation of the current 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in many countries. Working with partner agencies and other institutions, we also support DHS and other population-related thematic surveys. With respect to Data for Development, our support relates to monitoring of progress towards the MDGs and ICPD, with emphasis on population, health and gender data. UNFPA has a long tradition of supporting programme countries collect, analyze, and utilize population-related data and information for development planning, policy formulation, and monitoring and evaluation. I am confident that SIAP as a regional institution with high caliber can work with UNFPA to deliver good quality technical assistance in the form of capacity development of statistical staff in the region especially in the above programme areas and in specific fields where there are known capacity gaps.

I look forward to many years of a strong and cohesive partnership between UNFPA APRO and SIAP, the leading institution in statistical training in the region. I applaud once again SIAP for 40 years of success.

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