

## Message from the Director

The year 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). Since its establishment in June 1970, SIAP has made efforts not only in developing professional skills of the government statisticians of the member states, but also contributed towards building up a global community among the government statisticians through networking course participants from the Asia and Pacific region and beyond. As of today, about 12,000 statisticians from 124 countries and territories benefited from SIAP's training.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the host Government of Japan especially for her generosity in providing the major bulk of financial and in-kind support for the operations of the Institute over 40 years.

At the same time, it was also proved that strong support from other member States and their national statistical offices (NSOs) is an essential factor for addressing diverse capacity building needs in the region. My sincerest gratitude is also due to other member and associate member governments of ESCAP and the United Nations agencies and international organizations for their active support to the Institute.

I am sincerely grateful to all parties involved in the development of the Institute in the past and at present - active and former staff members of SIAP and ESCAP, and the alumni of course participants, for their royal efforts and encouragements to support the Institute for all these 40 years.

Like any birthday celebration, this anniversary gives us an opportunity to review what we have achieved and set up the direction where we will proceed.

Recognizing ever-increasing demand for statistical training in member states, the Institute will provide more practically oriented training with multiplier effect for the wide dissemination of knowledge in demand by working together in partnership with member states, international organizations as well as other institutes and training agencies at all levels regional, sub-regional and country.

We look forward to greater ownership and active participation of all members and associate members of ESCAP, including the host Government, and other partners, in developing human resources and strengthening statistical capability in Asia and the Pacific.

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