



Message from the Australian Statistician



40th Anniversary Commemoration Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

I am very pleased to offer my congratulations to SIAP, and all who have supported SIAP and participated in its programs, on this special occasion, the 40th Anniversary of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

In the 40 years since the inauguration of the Asian Statistical Institute, enormous economic and social changes have taken place in the region. This has given rise to growing demands for information to assist governments to understand and guide the development of national and interregional policies and practices to sustain economic and social progress across the region.

The Evaluation Report tabled at the 66th session of ESCAP, shows what an extraordinary effort SIAP has made to strengthen the statistical capability of the countries of the region. In total, 11,778 government officials or statisticians from 124 countries have been trained with the vast majority of these participants, some 98 per cent, originating from the ESCAP member States.

In this context, SIAP has played an important role in the region as it has delivered on the objectives it has been set, to help strengthen the capability of member statistical organisations to produce timely and high quality statistics that can be utilised for economic and social development planning

It is important to recognise and thank the Japanese government for its foundational and substantial ongoing commitment and support to SIAP. Without this support, it would have been difficult for SIAP to deliver the substantial contribution that it has made.

Throughout this 40 year period, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has supported SIAP in its efforts to improve capacity and capability in the region. With the continued support of other relevant Australian government agencies, the ABS has a long history of assisting countries in the region to develop and strengthen their statistical systems and capability. I am very proud of the continued support that ABS has made to both SIAP and countries in the region through the provision of highly skilled resources to help share the Australian experience.

My congratulations to the management and staff of SIAP, both past and present, for their contributions to the success of SIAP in reaching this major milestone.

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