

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SIAP

"Developing Professional Capability for National Statistical Systems"

Ninth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and
the Pacific

31 August – 2 September 2010, Tokyo, Japan

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Introduction

The year 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP-ESCAP). The Ninth Management Seminar for Heads of NSOs in Asia and the Pacific will be organized in conjunction with the celebration of the 40th Anniversary. It will be conducted by SIAP in collaboration with the Statistics Division of ESCAP (SD-ESCAP), Statistics Division of United Nations (UNSD), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Government of Japan from 31 August to 2 September 2010.

SIAP has been organizing various training courses since its establishment in 1970. While some regular training courses are conducted at its premises in Chiba, Japan in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), SIAP is also offering many other training courses outside Japan at country, regional and sub-regional level under its Outreach Programme to respond to the specific needs of countries. The Institute also organizes distance training courses in collaboration with JICA using their JICA-NET technology. These courses are mainly conducted prior to each Tokyo-based course as preparatory training. Participants of SIAP training courses, generally, would belong to the junior up to the middle level of the organizational hierarchy.

It was recognized that the skills and knowledge of leaders and managers in the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) also need to be constantly upgraded through training.

In 2001, the seventh session of the Governing Council (then Board) approved the conduct of management seminars for senior officials of NSOs .

In 2003, the annual series of Management Seminars for Heads of NSOs was launched in response to the need to strengthen statistical leadership and management skills at the top level of NSOs.

The current seminar is the ninth in the series. This time, as before, the basic objective is to

strengthen capability in the area of leadership and management in statistics with a view to enhancing statistical capabilities in support of inclusive and sustainable development. Then, we also aim to provide an opportunity to learn experiences and analyze major success and challenges in regard to developing and maintaining professional capability of their staff.

Through the seminar, participants will be able to gain a better understanding of how to:

- develop and maintain the core professional skills that staff of NSO's need to effectively perform their tasks;
- work with outside organizations to bridge shortfalls in skills and capacity;
- secure funding for developing and maintaining professional capability; and
- prepare a draft framework for building statistical capability .

It is also expected that SIAP will gain a greater understanding of priority areas of training needs for supporting NSOs development of professional capability and ways of measuring success of training activities.

The Institute created a dedicated webpage on the Ninth Management Seminar under “SIAP-ESCAP 40 years Statistical Training for Development” at <http://www.unsiap.or.jp>. The purpose of the webpage is to facilitate the quality discussion at the seminar by providing access to background information, experiences described in country papers and other resources. The webpage will also be available to let a broader audience reap the benefits of the seminar.

Day 1, Tuesday 31 August 2010

Afternoon

12:15 – 13:00 Registration

13:00 – 15:30 Opening session: **“Paving New Direction in Official Statistics: the Role of Heads of NSOs”**

This session serves a dual purpose – it is part of SIAP's 40th Anniversary celebrations as well as an opener for the management seminar.

13:00 – 13:30

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Shuichi Watanabe**, Deputy Director, SIAP-ESCAP

Opening address:

Ms. Davaasuren Chultemjamts, Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

(SIAP-ESCAP)

Welcoming remarks:

Mr. Hiroshi Ikegawa, Director General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards)
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan

;

Mr Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)

Ms. He Qi, Assistant Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
International Monetary Fund (IMF)

13:30 – 15:30 **Keynote speech and panel discussion.**

Moderator: **Mr. Rusman Heriawan**, Chief Statistician, BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Keynote Speaker: **Ms. Adelheid Burg-Schmelz**, Director, Statistics Department, IMF:
“Paving New Direction in Official Statistics: the Role of Heads of NSOs”

The keynote speech and the subsequent discussion led by a panel of selected Heads of NSOs in the region and the Director of SIAP-ESCAP are expected to serve two purposes - a) set the scene for the Management Seminar on "Developing Professional Capability for National Statistical Systems", and b) be a significant event on its own leading to SIAP's 40th Anniversary Ceremony which will follow immediately after the discussion.

National statistical offices face ever increasing user demands. What are the resulting challenges and how has the global financial crisis added to them? How can heads of NSOs actively address them? The keynote speech will start out by looking at a number of roles heads of NSOs have to play as chief statisticians, heads of important institutions, high ranking government officials, contributors to the global statistical system etc. It will then look at some new challenges for official statistics including specific needs resulting from the global financial crisis. While acknowledging the multitude of players that influence the direction that official statistics is taking, the keynote speech will focus on the role of heads of NSOs in addressing the challenges.

During the discussion, panelists shall try to link their comments to the various strategies NSOs can use, with emphasis on successes and challenges of different strategies to ensure that national statistical systems possess the capability to meet current and future user needs.

Name of the panelists are:

1. **Ms. Wan Ramlah Wan Abd Raof**, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics, Malaysia: “Looking beyond ‘now’ and equipping NSO with the professional capability required for the future”.
2. **Mr. Geoff Bascand**, Government Statistician and Chief Executive, Statistics New Zealand, “New direction in official statistics: Experience of New Zealand”
3. **Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki**, Director General, Statistics Bureau of Japan: “Reform of Japan’s statistical system and its lessons – A personal view”
4. **Ms. Davaasuren Chultemjamts**, Director, SIAP-ESCAP: “People-centred training”

Group Photo/Break

16: 30 – 17:15 **The 40th Anniversary Ceremony**

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Shuichi Watanabe**, Deputy Director, SIAP-ESCAP

Demonstration of video: The 5th Decade

Opening Statement by **Ms. Davaasuren Chultemjamts**, Director, SIAP-ESCAP

Congratulatory messages by:

Mr Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division

Mr. Kazuhiro Haraguchi, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan

Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan (to be delivered by **Mr. Kazuo Sunaga**, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan)

Ms. Sadako Ogata, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (to be delivered by **Mr. Eiji Hashimoto**, Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency)

Ms. Carmelita N. Ericta, representative of SIAP alumni

17:30 – 19:00 **Reception hosted by Mr. Kazuhiro Haraguchi**, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan.

Day 2, Wednesday 1 September 2010

Morning

09:30 – 12:30

The seminar will resume with a summary of the opening session and its implications for the seminar topic. The approach and objectives for the seminar will be outlined by the SIAP consultant, with reference to the outputs that are expected to be realized by participants of the seminar.

Session 1 **What capability is needed by NSOs now and into the future, and how can it be achieved?**

Moderator: **Ms. D.B.P.S. Vidyaratne**, Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka

This session will focus on ensuring a clear understanding of the professional capability needed by NSOs today and in the future. An introductory presentation on the essential skills that all NSOs should be striving to develop and maintain, along with key strategies for their attainment, will be given by Ms. Nancy McBeth (Consultant, SIAP). This will be followed by the country presentations from Australia and Indonesia on their experiences with developing professional capability, with an emphasis on key strategies utilized. Group work sessions will follow on developing elements of Framework for Building Statistical Capability. Group work topics in this session will focus on the elements involved in designing a Framework for Statistical Capability including essential professional skills, determining the benefits to staff and stakeholders, the role of the head of the NSO, the roles of international and regional agencies, the impacts of NSS leadership on capability requirements within an NSO as well as the wider capability assessment of the NSS.

The seven work groups will be formed on the basis of diversities and similarities of country contexts in the region, viz. Small island developing states, Countries with economies in transition, and Other countries.

Day 2, Wednesday 1 September 2010

Afternoon

14:00 – 15:30

Session 2. Getting the right balance between internal capacity and utilizing external professional skills

Moderator: **Mr. Jin-Gyu Kim** Deputy Commissioner, Statistics Korea

The session begins with a presentation by Ms. Nancy McBeth summarizing the experiences of NSOs attending the workshop. The focus of this presentation is to highlight the similarities and differences of NSOs in statistical capability building of national statistical systems and country practices.

While most NSOs strive to develop all the professional capability they need to undertake their work program, it may be more effective on a temporary or ongoing basis for some capability to be obtained from other sources. This can be done through a variety of means such as contracting in specialist staff, contracting out services, and formulating joint projects with partners with complementary skills. The experiences of two countries; Iran and New Zealand will provide an account of reasons for seeking external skills, the means of obtaining such skills, and the issues to be managed.

International organizations have an important role to play in terms of helping NSOs develop capability through training, provision of tools and provision of expertise. The session will cover the expertise which international organizations can offer to NSOs developing their capability.

15:30 – 17:15

Session 3. NSO leadership in developing statistical capability across the national statistical service

Moderator: **Ms. Nancy McBeth**, Consultant, SIAP

Successful NSOs have a wide range of relationships within their government systems. These relationships are built on trust and respect, and shape the reputation of the NSO. NSO leaders have a critical role in maintaining that reputation. The first part of the session is plenary

discussion, that is an opportunity for NSO leaders to share experiences in building trust and respect, and so enhancing the reputation of the NSO.

Developing professional capability is a challenge for all producers of official statistics in national statistical systems, not just NSOs. In most countries NSOs have significant roles to play in coordination of their national statistical system as well as providing leadership for the system. Professional capability is one area where NSOs need to provide leadership as well as provide assistance with either developing capability or assisting those with insufficient capability. Philippines and Singapore will share their experiences in statistical capability building of national statistical systems.

17:30 – 19:00 **Reception hosted by Ms. Adelheid Burg-Schmelz**, Director of the Statistics Department, IMF:

Day 3 Thursday 2 September 2010

Morning

09:30 – 09:45 The day will start with a brief recap of the previous day.

09:45 – 12:30

Session 4. **Developing Framework for Building Statistical Capability**

Moderator: **Ms. Nancy McBeth**, Consultant, SIAP

There will be a presentation by SIAP on its Core Skills Framework, designed to assist countries developing competencies for statistical work and to help identify the skills to be targeted by SIAP training. Discussion will follow and feedback on the framework will be sought from participants. Mobilizing resources to put into action elements of a plan for building capability is an important task in an implementation strategy. Often extra resources may be required, usually from increased funding provided by governments and often with assistance available from international agencies to implementing tasks.

The presentation on NSDS (National Strategies for the Development of Statistics): A Means to Mobilise and Co-ordinate Resources will address the importance to have a long-term planning of statistical activities at national level for a better coordination and mobilization of national and international resources. It will focus on the respective roles of national stakeholders and the Technical and financial partners for a better increased and coordinated mobilization of resources.

The presentation will be done by a representative of PARIS21, the international partnership actively assisting developing countries and lower middle income countries to develop National Strategies aiming at reinforcing the development of the National Statistical Systems.

The group work commenced in the previous day will continue focusing on the remaining elements of Framework for Building Statistical Capability (building and implementing the framework). This includes recruitment, training and development, strategies, advantages and disadvantages of centralization of professional tasks/skills, aspects of organizational culture, mobilizing resources, measuring results, opportunities for working together.

Day 3 Thursday 2 September 2010

Afternoon

14:00 – 16:15

Session 4 Developing Framework for Building Statistical Capability (Cont'd)

Work group sessions will continue and to conclude the work group sessions there will be a plenary session with the aim of bringing together all the elements of Framework for Statistical Capability that have been identified and discussed over the past 2 days.

Session 5: Closing

The closing session will seek feedback, evaluation and recommendations on the Management Seminar from participants, discuss possible topics and the venue for the next seminar.