UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

and

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Country Course on Population and Housing Censuses: International Recommendations and Use of Emerging Technologies and Methodologies

14 October – 18 October 2019, Perak, Malaysia

Concept Note

I. Introduction:

The population and housing census is often considered the most important statistical exercise conducted in a country. It provides fundamental information for monitoring the 2030 Agenda on a wide range of indicators by small geographic areas and population groups. For some countries, it may be the only source of information for certain official statistics and SDGs indicators. It also provides a framework to develop sampling frames for other statistical surveys. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda provides a comprehensive framework that integrates economic, social, environmental and institutional issues. Due to this integrative nature, countries need to use multiple sources of data in order to meet the challenges of data compilation and monitoring demands emanating from the 2030 Agenda.

The population and housing census is complex and resource intensive operation. Countries increasingly explore alternative approaches and technologies to address rising costs of census operation while ensuring efficiency, data quality and timeliness of the census data. Many countries explore the possibility of combining census with administrative data so that they can meet the demands for statistics in more disaggregated levels and more frequent basis. In the 2010 census round, we have already seen many countries adopting electronic data collection technologies (tablets, PDAs, the Internet and other technologies) for census operation. Even though there are challenges in adopting these alternative methodologies and technologies, such trends seem to continue for future census taking operations.

At the regional level, there is a growing need for improving capacity of countries in producing population statistics by combining censuses with administrative data. The Asia-Pacific statistical community acknowledged the importance of producing population statistics by combining censuses and administrative data for SDGs monitoring, which is reflected in the Collective Vision endorsed during the ESCAP Committee of Statistics in 2016.

In this context, the current training will focus on the latest developments in alternative methodologies, use of technology in census operations, review of revised international census recommendations and estimation of key demographic indicators to illustrate the effective use of census data in producing key official statistics.

II. Objectives:

1. To identify the benefits and challenges of integrating administrative data in censuses
2. To improve practical knowledge in the basic requirements for structuring a system to produce register-based population statistics
3. To identify the benefits and challenges of using electronic data collection technologies in censuses
4. To enhance the understanding of the latest revisions of international recommendations on basic concepts and methodologies of census operations
5. To strengthen skills in using demographic estimation methods for producing key official statistics from censuses

III. Target audience:

This country course is designed for middle level statisticians engaged in (1) the collection of population data and production of population statistics, and/or (2) collection of data from administrative sources for the purpose of producing population statistics in Malaysia. A total number of approximately 15 participants will be invited.

IV. Course design and contents:

The training course consists of lectures, presentations, discussion sessions and hands-on exercises. Participants are expected to provide insights and share their knowledge on the census taking operations and compilation and dissemination processes of their countries among participants. Country experience and examples will have a great part in the content.

The training course will cover the following topics:

- Assessment of 2010 Round of population and housing censuses
- Overview of revised UN principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses
- Planning, organizing and management of census operations
- Case studies on country practices of conducting register based censuses
- Register based census: pre-requirements, methodologies and caveats
- Use of technology in census operations: motivations, challenges, data collection issues related to multi-modal system
- Demographic estimation from censuses: migration and period total fertility rate

V. Pre-course requirements:

Participants to the course need to have:

- Participants are encouraged to bring sample census data* for hands on exercise (estimating period total fertility rate (TFR) from sample census).
  * Guidelines on the variables and format of the data will be provided in a separate document.
- Knowledge of basic elements of census operations;
- Each country is requested to make presentations on their national experiences in following topics:
  (1) national planning, organization and management of census operations either in 2010 or 2020 census rounds
  (2) using electronic data collection technologies in census in 2010 or plans for 2020 census round