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**WORKING PAPER - SIAP
ANNEX 3**

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Governing Board
Fifth session
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**TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS
IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION
(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)**

Introduction

1. This document is based on the second part of the survey organized by SIAP in 1999 on the training needs in the ESCAP region with regard to the statistical subject-areas falling under the competence of the Institute. The objective of this second part was to gather information on the existing statistical training programmes of national statistical organizations (NSOs) of the region. Data were collected on the following:
 - (a) regular and future scheduled in-house training activities of NSOs;
 - (b) in-house courses and training activities of NSOs open for external participants;
 - (c) other organizations and institutes in the country providing training courses in official statistics;
 - (d) NSOs willing to collaborate with SIAP on the organization of regional or country courses.

2. The purpose of making inventories on the above items was to find out where potential cooperative arrangements could be searched and where the coverage of areas may need further improvement. The results of these inventories are reported upon. Section I provides information relating to 1(a) above. Section II and Section III contain, respectively, an overview of the results from the survey in regard to 1(b) and 1(c). Lastly, Section IV gives a summary of the responses in respect of 1(d).

3. Concerning the courses offered by 'other organizations and institutes' in 1(c), this report is based only on the responses received from the questionnaire as sent to the NSOs. SIAP intends to investigate the 'market' further in the near future and to compile a more detailed data base in due course.

4. All responses received from the NSOs have been compiled and will be made available as an Information Note to the participants of the fifth session of the Governing Board to enable them to peruse the

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information in detail. In the compilation, the texts as submitted via the questionnaire were taken over with, occasionally, textual shortenings where appropriate. In principle all indicated courses have been listed, except for some incidental cases of non-statistical subjects.

I. Overview of Regular and Future Scheduled In-house Training Activities

5. Based upon this inventory-list, some broad remarks or conclusions may be made. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has an interesting course programme with good diversification for the different target-groups and covering a comprehensive range of statistical issues which are encountered in daily practices of a NSO. The scale of the ABS training programme is quite different from many of other NSOs and the outline of its training programme could serve as good-practice example for others.

6. The internal training programmes in several other countries are also extensive and broad. A short summary of the main characteristics of the training-programmes in the various countries is given below. However, 18 of the 43 respondents did not indicate any internal training programme.

Armenia	few, incidental, short courses;
Australia	extensive program with broad diversification in subjects, target groups, training methods, training-organization;
Bangladesh	some short training courses (1 day to 2 weeks) and some longer courses of 4 or 6 weeks for sampling methods, basic statistics and computer-processing;
China	some specialized courses of 1 to 3 weeks;
Hong Kong, China	special education for new statisticians, regular seminars for enhancing the professional knowledge of the staff, some short specialized courses and an extensive training on sampling techniques;
India	extensive courses for junior and senior statistician certificates and for probationers; generic course on national and international statistics; specialized short refreshers-courses;
Indonesia	courses of 1 to 4 months; one basic and one intermediate statistics course and several more specialized courses for national accounts, demography, statistical software packages and applied statistics;
Islamic Republic of Iran	3 courses of 7 to 15 days for data-analysis and for sampling methods;

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Japan	extensive education and training programme; one 'general' course of 6 months and several 'special' courses of some weeks; specialized statistical training courses by ministries (mostly 5 to 12 days);
Kazakhstan	one course on macro-economics;
Lao PDR	three specialized courses on statistical computing and macro economics;
Malaysia	several short courses on specialized subjects (methodology, processing and statistical subject-areas);
Maldives	one 6 week course on basic statistics and one 3 week course on national accounts;
Myanmar	one 3 month course on basic statistics;
Nepal	several general courses, especially in the field of methodology and processing (10 to 30 days);
New Zealand	several short courses with general subjects and one longer course on indices;
Pakistan	some general (basic and advanced) courses on methodology and processing;
Papua New Guinea	6 month course for certificate in statistics;
Philippines	3-level basic training (10 days, 6 months and 3 months) by NSO and some short, specialized courses by the National Statistical Coordination Board;
Republic of Korea	5 courses of 1 week with a more generic character;
Russian Federation	2 short generic courses and 2 short specific (Office-software and Enterprise register);
Samoa	2 weeks course on population analysis;
Singapore	4 short, specialized courses;
Sri Lanka	1 basic course for new statisticians (1 month) and 1 advanced course of 9 months for certificate in applied statistics, plus several, more specialized, courses of 1 to 3 weeks;
Tajikistan	2 short subject-area courses;
Thailand	1 basic course (3.5 months) and 1 intermediate course (4.5 months);

Turkey	one basic course (9 months) and one course of 6 months in computer processing.
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7. It is difficult to assess the training programmes of the various responding NSOs because the local situations are quite diverse. On the other hand, a statistical training institution needs to learn from the 'best practices' in countries to implement more structuralized training programmes. The latter seems necessary because the work in a NSO requires different kinds of high level specialization which are hard to find in other governmental training institutes. Moreover, the calls for qualitative good and timeliness statistics is growing, and the requirements of international comparability urges the adoption of new methodologies and processing systems.

8. There is also the important matter of the assistance that SIAP may provide in the set up of structuralized training programs in official statistics. As a specialized training institute with considerable experience in the training of statisticians in the region and with sufficient knowledge of local circumstances, SIAP may be contacted by those NSOs who may require assistance or consultation in this regard.

II. In-house Training Activities of NSOs Open for External Participants

9. It is evident that, in general, the 'offer-side' of in-house courses for external participants is limited. One constraint is the language capability of potential participants as most in-house courses are conducted in the national language. Yet, there are several interesting openings for external participation in Australia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Philippines, Russian Federation and Turkey.

III. Statistical Training Activities in "Other Organizations and Institutions"

10. The category of "other organizations and institutions" providing training courses in official statistics has also a fairly large list, but as stated in the introduction, this inventory is not complete. Some details on the organizations and on the courses are missing and not all (known) organizations are mentioned. The Institute will further investigate the training programme in official statistics available at these and other such institutions to update its data base in this regard.

IV. Collaboration by NSOs in the Organization of Courses

11. In the questionnaire, the respondents were also asked to indicate those subject-areas in which they were prepared to collaborate with SIAP in the organization of courses. A distinction was made for the country courses (only, or mainly, for participants from the collaborating country) and regional courses (participants from

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several countries). The response will be taken into account in the drawing up of SIAP's outreach programme in future.

12. Some general conclusions which may be drawn from the answers are the following:
- (a) a large majority of countries is prepared to collaborate with SIAP in organizing either country-focused or regional courses or both kinds of courses;
 - (b) most of the responding countries, however, indicated interests in only some single subject-areas;
 - (c) countries responding positively for collaboration in country-focused courses in more than 10 subject-areas were Philippines, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Papua New Guinea;
 - (d) Australia, Philippines, Turkey and Uzbekistan responded positively for collaboration with SIAP in organizing regional courses, and in more than 10 subject areas;
 - (e) Japan has not been included in the overview, since Japan has an evident special and utmost important position in statistical training of ESCAP developing countries in so far as the organization of SIAP courses are concerned; and
 - (f) the overview provides useful basic information for scheduling SIAP's outreach programme.

13. The Governing Board may wish to note the results from the survey of training activities in the region and suggest on the follow-up action, if any, on collaboration between SIAP and interested organizations and NSOs with regard to the training of official statistics for developing countries of the region.

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