UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Workshop 'Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific'

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WORKING PAPER - SIAP
ANNEX 4

Summarizing results

United Nations SIAP organized in 2002 a survey directed to the heads of the national statistical offices in the ESCAP region (with exemption of those of the three developing countries: Australia, Japan and New Zealand). The objective was to gather input for the strategic decisions with respect to the future e-learning strategy of SIAP. Twenty nine countries responded to the survey, being more than half of the organizations which were contacted. The distribution of the response over sub-regions, development level and population size was identical to that of the region as total. The survey results are consequently representative for the geographical working area of SIAP. In this memo the summarizing outcomes of the survey are analyzed.

RETURNED FORMS	30		
- Full agreement that e-learning is a good initiative		22	
- - Go-ahead with only small scale projects			18
- - Go-ahead with small scale projects & feasibility study			2
- - Go-ahead with only feasibility study			2
- Not knowing whether it's a good initiative, but go-ahead		7	
- - Go-ahead with only small scale projects			5
- - Go-ahead with small scale projects & feasibility study			2
- Time is not (yet) ripe for e-learning		1	

Nearly all respondents (Tonga was the only exception) reacted positive on the intention of SIAP to organize e-learning in the future. A large majority (22 out of 29 'positive' reactions) fully agreed that it is a good initiative, while 6 'uncertain' countries asked SIAP to go -at least- ahead with small scale projects in order to prove its potentiality. A comprehensive feasibility study was recommended by 5 respondents.

PRIORITIES COURSES	Ranking	Average prior.	Average partic.	Total partic.
poverty indicators	1	3.5	12.3	282
statistical dissemination standards	2	3.7	15.5	372
business registers	3	4.0	11.6	266
website design	4	4.2	10.3	258
national human development reports	4	4.2	15.3	368
statistical formula	6	4.5	20.4	449
time use statistics	7	4.7	13.3	292
graphical display	8	4.8	14.8	371
international merchandise trade statistics	9	5.2	12.3	258
review of algebra	10	7.7	10.7	160

The priorities allocated by the various countries for a group of 'example' course subjects, was relatively diverse and the answers were not always according the instructions. The differences in average priority were relatively small and, in connection with the response bias, most probably even not statistically significant. A conclusion could be that -at least on the short term- the more pragmatic considerations may prevail for SIAP in the selection of the test projects (for instance the availability of expertise or suitable training material).

Eight countries suggested 'other' subjects for courses: in total about 45 additional suggestions were done, of which 21 by Turkey.

With respect to the number of potential participants the survey data have to be annotated because of three 'interested' countries that did not provide figures. As far as concerns the quantity, however, we may expect on basis of this survey that for the whole ESCAP region the number of e-learning students for a 'standard' course could easily count for somewhere in the range between 500 and 800.

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
- Central computer class room available	19	
- - equipped with network with internet		9
- - equipped with network without internet		4
- - only equipped with stand-alone computers with internet		1
- - only equipped with stand-alone computers without internet		5
- No central class room but decentralized solutions available	8	
- - network with internet		3
- - only stand-alone computers with internet		2
- - unknown configuration		3
- No adequate infrastructure available or no answer	3	

The situation with respect to the availability of an adequate infrastructure was much better than assumed during the 2001 Governing Board meeting. Internet access for the participation on e-learning via the World Wide Web is available (whether or not centralized) in 16 of the 27 positively responding countries. Further extension is possible by using the network configurations in the countries without individual access to the internet. Participation on e-learning courses with CD-Rom as main medium for knowledge transfer and support for further training interactivity is possible in at least 27 countries. The pace of modernization of technical infrastructure in the region might indicate that further improvement on relatively short time can be expected.

PREPAREDNESS TO COOPERATE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SIAP	
- Prepared to cooperate	21
- Not prepared/possible to cooperate	6
- No answer	3

A large majority of the countries appears to be positive about cooperation in partnership with SIAP in the future development, design and conduct of e-learning courses.

TABLE 1: OPINIONS ABOUT E-LEARNING CONCEPT and AVAILABILITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

		Opinion					Infrastructure											
		good initiative, start small scale	good initiative, first feasibility study	uncertain, start small scale	uncertain, first feasibility study	no good option on this moment	a central class rooms	a1 network including internet	a2 network without internet	a3 stand alone with internet	a4 stand alone without internet	b decentralized alternatives available	b1 network including internet	b2 network without internet	b3 stand alone with internet	b4 stand alone without internet	b5 unknown	c no infrastructure or no answer
South-Central & West Asia	Armenia				x		n					y			y			
	Bangladesh			x			y	y										
	Bhutan	x					n					y	y					
	India	x					y	y										
	Iran	x					y	y										
	Georgia	x					y		y									
	Kazakhstan	x					y	y										
	Maldives			x			n					y	y					
	Pakistan	x					n					y					y	
	Sri Lanka		x				y				y							
	Turkey	x					y	y										
East & South-East Asia	Brunei Darussalam			x			n					y					y	
	Cambodia	x	x				n					n						y
	Hong Kong, China	x					y	y										
	Lao PDR			x	x		y		y									
	Macao			x			y	y										
	Malaysia	x					y			y								
	Myanmar	x					y		y									
	Philippines	x					y				y							
	Republic of Korea	x					y	y										
	Singapore	x					n					y					y	
	Thailand		x				y	y										
	Viet Nam	x	x				y		y		y							
Oceania	Fiji			x			n					n						y
	Marshall Islands	x					y			y								
	Micronesia	x					y			y								
	Niue	x					n					y			y			
	Papua New Guinea	x					y			y								
	Samoa	x					n					y	y					
	Tonga				x													y

TABLE 2: PRIORITIES and POTENTIAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR SELECTED COURSES

		Priority										Number of participants									
		poverty indicators	national human development reports	graphical display	time use statistics	review of algebra	intern. merchandise trade stats	website design for NSOs	business registers	statistical dissemination standards (IMF)	use of statistical formula	poverty indicators	national human development reports	graphical display	time use statistics	review of algebra	intern. merchandise trade stats	website design for NSOs	business registers	statistical dissemination standards (IMF)	use of statistical formula
South-Central & West Asia	Armenia	1	9	8	5	10	6	2	3	4	7	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Bangladesh	4	8	9	1	10	11	6	5	3	7	10	120	30	30	20	20	8	15	15	40
	Bhutan	1	5	4	8	9	7	6	2	3	10	6	3	12	6	20	3	1	3	4	20
	India	1	2	7	6	10	8	9	3	4	5	20	20	20	20		20	20	20	20	20
	Iran	5	6	1	4	10	7	2	8	3	9	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Georgia	3	4	7	8	10	5	2	1	6	9	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
	Kazakhstan	1	3	7	8	10	4	5	2	6	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	1	2	2	2
	Maldives	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Pakistan	1	3	5	4		3	5	4	1	2	5	10	10	10			5	5	5	20	10
	Sri Lanka	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	25	25	50	25		25	25	25	100	100
	Turkey	6	8	1	5	10	9	2	7	4	3	53	47	73	55	10	34	73	49	59	61
East & South-East Asia	Brunei Darussalam	1	11	12	9			10		2	6	15	5	5	20			5		20	20
	Cambodia	1	10	5	6	9	7	2	8	3	4	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	10	10	10
	Hong Kong, China			11	1		9	10	8	7				20	10		20	5	20	20	
	Lao PDR	3	6	8	5	10	1	9	2	7	4	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
	Macao	5	1	9	4	10	6	8	3	2	7	5	5	8	10	8	4	5	5	10	5
	Malaysia	10	3	4		6	5	8	2		1	20	15	30		20	20	20	15		40
	Myanmar	1	2	4	8	10	3	5	7	6	9	20	15	10	5	10	8	10	10	5	10
	Philippines	4	8	1	6	13	7	5	10	9	11	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	Republic of Korea	1	2	3	2	4	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	x	x	2	2	2	3
	Singapore	8	6	2	9	10	7	3	4	5	1		1	2				2	2	1	4
	Thailand	3	4	5				1		2		5	5	5				5		5	
	Viet Nam	8	1	3	6		7	4	2	5	9	20	20	20	20		20	20	20	20	20
Oceania	Fiji	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
	Marshall Islands	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	5	3	5	5	2	1	3	1	2
	Micronesia	8	2	7	5	6	5	2	4	3	6	6	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	
	Niue	4		4				1		2	3	x		x				x		x	x
	Papua New Guinea	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	15	15	15	20	10	20	5	15	15	40
	Samoa	10	4	6	2	5	8	3	9	7	1	4	5	5	5	5	8	3	6	5	5
	Tonga																				