



30 years of attempting to strengthen statistical capacity in the Pacific Why are we still doing it - lessons for the future?

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Why do we train ‘statisticians’?

- to produce “better” statistics / information
 - timeliness, quality, range, relevance.....
- **more robust systems**
 - broad skills base to withstand shocks
 - >> increase sustainability
- **more flexible systems**
 - skills to adapt, develop systems
 - (want to avoid “specialist” systems)
- **SO THE COUNTRY HAS BETTER INFORMATION**
- **= BETTER PLANNING AND POLICY**



How are we doing after 30 years ?

- **Better?**
 - major on-going concerns about quality, range and timeliness
- **More robust?**
 - too many examples of major systems failures
- **More flexible?**
 - still need many external T/As
- **WHY IS THIS SO?**



Insufficient resources, and/or wrong strategies?

- Both!
- But with emphasis on wrong strategies....
 - too much training is poorly or inappropriately directed
 - eg, too esoteric/advanced
 - If no GDP, do not need SNA93
 - also, Pacific has some unique features:
 - Many do not have own currencies, so BOP is a low/no priority
 - No labour exchanges
 - need to use live national data



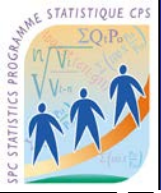
Insufficient resources, and/or wrong strategies?

- With emphasis on wrong strategies....
- too many of the “wrong” people being trained:
 - participants not always selected on merit
 - responsibility of countries, not agencies
 - greater need to recognize long-term benefits of developing new staff
 - training too advanced (Iete, 1993)
 - Catch 22 - with really good staff,
> skills = > P(leave)!



Always have a matrix!

		TRAINING	
		“WRONG “	“RIGHT “
P E O P L E	“W R O N G”	<div data-bbox="768 682 846 753" data-label="Text"> <p>X</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nepotism • limited to NSOs • senior >> junior • too inexperienced • not relevant to work • not relevant to country
	“R I G H T”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too esoteric /advanced for country needs • Inappropriate software • Not empathetic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incl ESL <-> ESL 	<div data-bbox="1174 996 1259 1068" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>but: some leave! and NSS sometimes does not make best use</p>



Key ways to improve the effectiveness of statistical training in the Pacific

- choose better people (this is improving!)

NISs:

Regional:

Agencies:





Regional Meeting on MDGs, March 2003 - 3 delegates from each country



NO national statisticians!



Key ways to improve the effectiveness of statistical training in the Pacific

- choose better people (this is improving!)

NISs:

- profit from learned skills, and transfer to others
- recognize appropriateness of capacity supplementation in some areas in preference to capacity building

Regional:

- support NISs in the above
- maybe send 6 to 1, not 1 to 6

Agencies:

- more resources for supplementation (= training also)
- more practical / not excessively theoretical
- ensure relevance to countries / use live data





The Pacific has many features which call for extensive local knowledge in all aspects of strengthening statistical capacity:

**better coordination and consultation =
more effective training =
better information for the region!**





Tank yu tumas Meataki ma'ata
Malo aupito Ko raba Thank you
Vinaka vakalevu Tangio tumas
Sulang Faafetai tele lava Merci

