

Group Discussions

**Fifth Workshop on Forging
Partnerships in Statistical Training in
Asia and the Pacific:
Making e-Learning Work for Us**

Day 1

Understanding the present situation

Focus

- **Strengths/advantages** of current e-learning modules/course
- **Limitations** of current e-learning courses
- Today's discussion will provide a platform for developing possible strategy for e-learning courses in the general training programme of the national statistical system (tomorrow)
- 3 groups
 - Providers of e-learning courses
 - Consumers of e-learning
 - H-W (heavy weights)

Group 1 (Providers)

- China
- Iran
- Japan (Mr Kaboyahsi)
- Philippines (Ms Pena)
- APCICT
- Korea National Open University
- Univ. South Pacific
- Tokushima Univ. (Mr Moruguchi)

Group 2 (Demand-side)

- Philippines (Mr Selda)
- Thailand
- Japan (Mr)
- Vietnam
- SPC
- Tokushima Univ.
- Mr Watanabe

Group 3 (H-W)

- Australia
- India
- Indonesia
- Russian Fed.
- Keio Univ.
- Mr. Nagakawa

Guide Questions (GRP 1)

- What are some of the **strengths/weaknesses** current e-learning courses face with respect to:
 - technical/infrastructural
 - Human resources/professionals
 - Policy direction/institutional & financial support
- Also think about what are the **reasons** behind the strength/weaknesses faced by those providing e-learning courses.
- Looking ahead, what would be the main **challenges** that would be faced by e-learning providers?

Guide Questions (GRP 2)

- What would be the main **strengths/weaknesses** of taking an e-learning course (say, compared to traditional F2F)?
- Can you describe the **characteristics of e-learners** of current official statistics? How does demographic and/or technological change affect demand for e-learning? Are there any other characteristics that are important from the demand side?
- What is the **demand for e-learning** (and to what extent do you think they have been met) in terms of
 - content (theory vs practical)
 - infrastructural requirements & knowledge of use of IT technology
- How would you think **language** plays out in e-learning (esp. given the diversity of APEC region)

Guide Questions (GRP 3)

- Can you identify the **main strengths** of current e-learning courses? Both from the providers perspective, as well as demanders side
- What has been the **main difficulty/challenge** so far in setting up e-learning modules?
- Looking ahead, can you identify **potential limitations/challenges** that lie ahead for e-learning modules/courses in the region?

Day 2

Formulating strategies for developing
e-learning courses/modules

What is “do”able?

- Let’s begin by identifying the **areas/topics** in official statistical training that e-learning can (or cannot) contribute:
 - Basic statistical literacy
 - Household surveys / survey methodology
 - **Pricing information / indexing (e.g. CPI)**
 - Training of e-learning developers (instruction design, contents, IT infrastructure set-up, etc.)
 - **National accounts**
 - Applied statistics
 - Quality statistics
 - **Basic data management and analysis**

Focus of group discussions

- Explore **strategies** for
 - Identifying the **scope** of training topics
 - setting **objectives** of e-learning training
 - **motivating** participants (providers and learners)
 - **maximizing impact** of training
- In other words, what is it we want to do specifically, what is needed to achieve objectives, and how to motivate the actors (e-learning providers, learners and stakeholders) to maximize impact of training

Guided Questions

Scope

- 1. Given the area for discussion assigned to us, ask yourselves whether reaching a larger and broader group of official statisticians in a cost-effective way would be an important objective?
- 2. How basic/obligatory are the learning needs? How large is the number requiring training?
- 3. Are you convinced that the area/subject matter can benefit from e-learning? (compare with traditional F2F - also think about complementarities).
- 4. Who would be the main recipients, providers of infrastructure, contents, etc?

Objective(s)

- 5. What would be the ultimate objective(s)/goal(s) for e-learning in the area of your discussion?
- 6. Please reflect on how would you see collaboration between different countries/institutions would play out

Constraints/challenges and solutions

- 7. What would be the most likely constraints to achieving set goals?
- 8. How would you tackle the constraints/challenges identified above?

Motivation/incentives

- 9. How do we attract participants? Incentives for:
 - Learners (certification? credits?)
 - Producers (copyrights? pay/renumeration?)
 - Institutional players/stakeholders (e.g. NSOs, instructors, private companies, etc)?
- 10. How would you do the assessment? What about quality control – how will you ensure best-quality courses?

Other details to consider?

- What would be your recommendations in terms of (but not limited to) coverage and time frame?
- What are the software/hardware requirements? Who will provide these?
- Which topics/contents?
 - Simple text
 - Interactive e-lessons
 - Assignments & mentoring
 - And at what level?
 - Basic or advanced
- What would be the budget requirements?
- How much e-learning? To what degree can we blend with F2F?

Plenary session (1:30-2:45 p.m.)

- Each group will present their strategies in details
- Other groups are encouraged to question, ask for clarification and make comments

Day 3

Drawing the road map – phased
adapting to MOOC model through
partnership of training providers

Reminder 1

- (1) The main intention of the forum is to establish a **road map** for expanding and accelerating the use of Internet e-learning for statistical training.



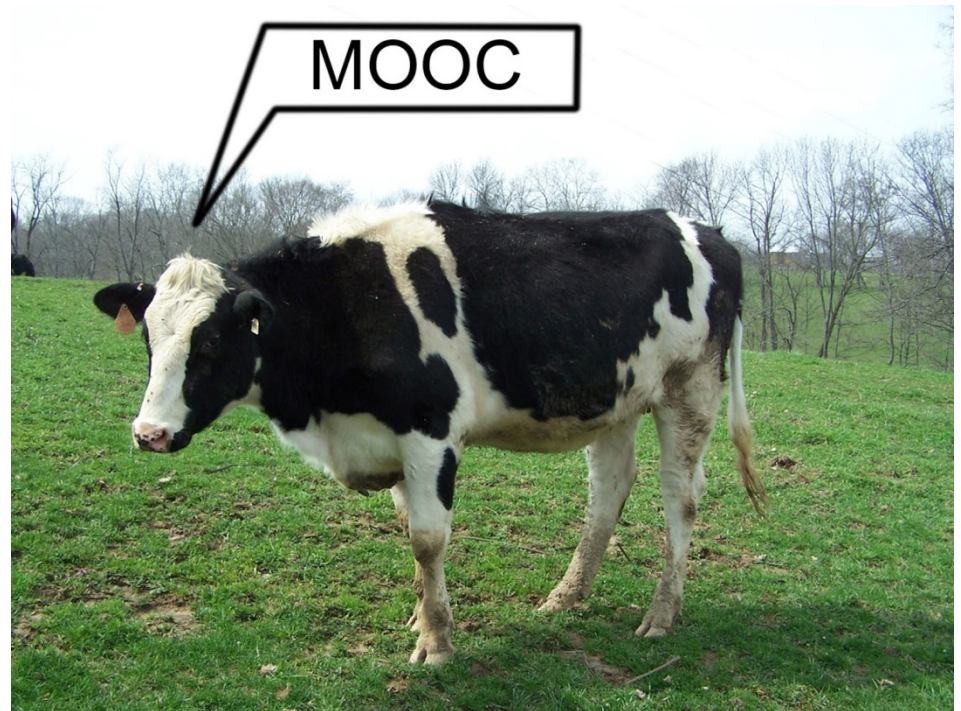
Reminder 2

- (2) We hope to achieve our objectives by forging of **partnership among official statistics training providers.**



Guiding philosophy

- (3) Of particular interest of the forum is to develop an implementation strategy for adopting the **massive open online course** (MOOC) model.



The “Road Map”

- Road map? Steps to reach the target!
- Question) What kind of e-learning system (for official statisticians) do you envision in 5 years from today?
- Let’s think in the context of **COOCS** (collaborated open online courses)
- Please bear in mind that we would like to establish a coordination and collaboration mechanism.

Guide Questions:

- (1) How do you feel about the viability and potential of setting up a common platform or a network of platforms for e-learning? Please think in terms of: (division of labour)
 - Financial & technical viability?
 - we need an establish platform, division of labour
 - Mechanism of sharing?
 - Use existing database/training materials, ensure copyrights, division of labour, Un host it and other partners have access, portal site (with references to local/national sites), UN recommendations,

- (2) What would be the pros & cons (including financial and technical resource requirements) for alternative modes of course delivery like:
 - “open to all” vs. for a targeted audience
 - Targeted audience, open to contribute & comment & participate (with restrictions to O.S.),
 - instructor guided (**expensive**) vs. self learning
 - structured (for a duration with defined milestones and an evaluation examination) vs. open access to materials
 - Copyright, mix of both modes (more self-paced),
 - interactive (& to what extent?)
 - Depends on the content

- (3) What would be the mechanism of sharing with regards to system administration, in particular with regards to hardware and software as well as its management and connectivity?
 - 3rd party (or UN), cloud (as a mechanism), UNOU, APCICT/ESCAP, competition, network of existing platforms,
- (4) What would be the mechanism of sharing with regards to course developers, including issues of selection and team work?
 - Certification, council/board on standardization including siap, beyond AP region, common tool for dev. e-courses,

- (5) What would be the mechanism of sharing with regards to course materials, especially relating to
 - determining course content
 - Cert. & stand.,
 - screening, editing and adapting materials for a course on specific topic
 - using available materials for reference

- (6) What would be the mechanism of sharing with regards to instructors, that is, issues relating to sharing the task of guiding and interaction?
 - instructor-participant interaction
 - Left to partners (with support from capable orgs), establish instructor's Dbase, council to dev a model,
 - instructor-instructor interaction and coordination
 - sharing resource persons among partners