

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
Governing Council

Fourteenth session

Incheon, Republic of Korea, 26-27 November 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**Matters arising from the thirteenth session of the
Governing Council**

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Note by the secretariat

The present document provides a summary of actions that have been or are being taken by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to implement recommendations made by the Governing Council (GC) at its thirteenth session.

<u>Matter arising</u>	<u>Action taken/current status</u>
1. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the Institute to address training needs and recommends continued support for the least developed countries and Small Island developing States in the region. Such training efforts should focus on the foundational elements of official statistics and specific subjects to build capacity on Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with increased use of e-learning, blended learning and training of trainers courses to enhance retention and reach.	1. The Institute continued its support for least developed countries and Small Island developing countries with a continuing focus on foundational elements of official statistics. A Subregional Training Course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and a Training Programme on Climate Change Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Pacific Island Countries were organized in Fiji during the year exclusively for Pacific countries.
2. In the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Council recommends that the Institute	2. All areas pointed out in the recommendation were delivered. The Institute has delivered the programmes with the help of lecturers in the Institute and with its partners.

* E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(14)/L.1

** Issued without formal editing

<u>Matter arising</u>	<u>Action taken/current status</u>
build capacity in areas such as climate change statistics, the quality of official statistics, the use of administrative data sources, small area statistics and the potential use of big data.	
3. The Council notes the importance of delivering training courses to audiences that include persons in subnational offices and persons outside national statistical offices with varying levels of statistical literacy.	3. Many of the e-learning courses delivered in the year had participants from regional/local national statistical offices and local governments.
4. The Council recommends that the Institute, as the secretariat of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, work with its members to develop possible modalities for accrediting courses on official statistics in the region.	4. Members of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific discussed possible modalities for accrediting courses on official statistics in the region on 12 September 2018. The Network was not in favor of accreditation of their courses by SIAP since they deliver training programmes depending on country demand and level of participants. The accreditation of training institutes will be a topic for future discussion.
5. In order to improve North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in statistical training, the Council recommends that the Institute facilitate the exchange of training materials already developed by member States.	5. The Institute is considering options on how to proceed.
6. The Council also recommends that the Institute make use of national expertise, including that offered by the representatives of Japan, India, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).	6. The Institute invited resource persons to regional training courses from countries and international organizations. For example, the Institute invited resource persons from India and Japan to the SIAP-JICA course “Theory and Practice in Official Statistics for Monitoring SDGs”. Resource persons from the Republic of Korea delivered training in a workshop organized on use of big data and a training programme on Sustainable Development Goal 4 relating to education statistics.
7. The Council endorses the Institute’s work programme and financial plan for 2018–2019 and notes the various suggestions regarding the reorientation of courses, including to add research-based training programmes.	7. The SIAP-JICA course “Production and Statistical Analysis of Monitoring Indicators in Support of Inclusive Development Policies” conducted every year focuses on data analysis of the micro-data brought by the participants from their countries. This is a research-oriented course where the participants present their findings after their analysis. Participants are also expected to present these findings in their offices after completion of the course. This course focused on the production of disaggregated Sustainable Development Goal indicators with small area estimation

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	techniques using sample survey and larger (typically census) micro datasets. This programme would be continued.
8. The Council recommends that the Institute collaborate with statistical training institutes, academic institutions and universities in the region in the delivery of training programmes.	8. The Institute invited resource persons to training courses from statistical training institutes, academic institutions and universities including Japan, India and the Republic of Korea. In addition, the Institute is establishing working arrangements with the National Research University, Higher School of Economics (Russia) to translate e-learning material developed in SIAP into Russian language for delivery to Central Asian countries. Efforts are also being made to develop collaboration with University of South Pacific for delivering training on Sustainable Development Goals-related indicators for Pacific countries.
9. The Council notes the suggestion made by the representative of the Republic of Korea with respect to the joint organization of training programmes on the Sustainable Development Goals and big data.	9. The Institute implemented three regional training courses with the Government of the Republic of Korea. These were on agricultural costs of production statistics, big data for sustainable development, and Sustainable Development Goal indicators on education statistics.
10. Recognizing the need to improve the statistical capacity of national statistical systems to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the Council recommends that member States accord high priority to training programmes on statistics in the annual training needs survey of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.	10. The Institute has been playing a facilitating role by informing National Statistical Offices regarding the dates of JICA training needs survey. National Statistical Offices are requested to approach their government authority in charge of the survey to express their need in this survey.
11. Recognizing that the strategic plan of the Institute is a living document, the Council agrees to establish a friends of the Chair group by March 2018, consisting of representatives of not more than seven member States, that would take stock of progress made on the 2015–2019 strategic plan and develop the 2020–2024 strategic plan to better address national, subregional and regional training priorities to build capacity on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The group will conduct its work mainly by email and teleconference. The membership of the group will be determined in subsequent months.	11. The Council established the Friends of the Chair (FOC) group composed of the Chair and member States of the Governing Council. A report on the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2015-2019 of the Institute for the period 2015-2017 was prepared and circulated on 2 February 2018 amongst members of FOC for comments and suggestion. Based on the comments, the revised and updated version of the document has been prepared and is included as E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(14)/4 for consideration of Governing Council.
12. The Council expresses gratitude to the	12. There has been some increase in contributions

Matter arising

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for filling the Institute's vacant posts but acknowledges that the Institute is running on a deficit and encourages member States to increase their contributions.

13. Noting suggestions by the representatives of Japan and the Republic of Korea, the Council urges the Institute to take appropriate action or make decisions to address the Institute's projected budget deficit in 2018.
14. The Council recommends that the Institute explore the possibility of setting up a web-based system for the exchange of information on best practices adopted by countries with respect to monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
15. The Council expresses support for initiatives related to the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Institute, with a view to increasing its profile and expanding its support base.
16. The Council decides to hold its fourteenth session in Bangkok in the first week of December 2018.

Action taken/current status

by a few countries. (Annex Table 7 of Director's Report in document E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(14)/2) The matter needs to be further pursued.

13. The present position and action taken is reported in the Director's report (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(14)/2).
14. Primary responsibility for collection and sharing of this information lies with UNSD/SD ESCAP. However, the Institute is collecting information on practices adopted by countries with respect to monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals that will be shared amongst member States.
15. The Institute will plan the schedule of and promote the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute in 2020. In this regard, the Institute will request member States of ESCAP and international organization to extend their support to the activities of the Institute.
16. Normally, the Governing Council of SIAP is held in Bangkok and Chiba in alternate years. In the year 2018, the Governing Council session was to be held in Bangkok just before the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP. However, the session of the Committee was scheduled for 16 to 19 October 2018, too early for preparation of documents for the session of the Governing Council. On the other hand, OECD and the Government of the Republic of Korea had decided to organize the OECD World Forum in Incheon from 27 to 29 November 2018. Under the above circumstances, after getting the approval from members of the Governing Council, it was decided that the 2018 session of the Governing Council be held in Incheon on 26-27 November 2018.