

Regional Training on Data Visualization for Official Statistics and SDG Indicators

17-20 November, 2026

Chiba, Japan

I. Background

In an increasingly data-rich environment, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are expected not only to produce high-quality statistics but also to communicate them effectively to a diverse range of users. Policymakers, researchers, development partners, journalists, and the general public rely on clear and accessible statistical information to better understand societal trends and support evidence-based decision-making. In this context, data visualization has become an essential tool for transforming complex datasets into meaningful insights that can be easily understood and acted upon.

Recognizing the growing importance of effective statistical communication, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is organizing a **Regional Training on Data Visualization for Official Statistics and SDG Indicators**. The training aims to strengthen the capacity of participants to design, create, evaluate, and communicate data visualizations that enhance the dissemination and use of Official Statistics and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. The programme covers a broad range of topics, including visualization principles, graphical design, statistical maps, visualizing complexity, interactive graphics and data storytelling. A key theme running throughout the training is the importance of ethical and inclusive communication as data visualizations should avoid misleading interpretations, and remain accessible to diverse audiences.

Over the four days of the workshop, participants will explore the strengths and limitations of different chart types, learn how to avoid common visualization pitfalls, and examine how visual design choices can influence the interpretation of data. The programme also includes dedicated sessions on interactive visualization techniques, *scrollytelling* and the communication of SDG indicators.

Through a combination of presentations, quizzes, group discussions, country experiences, and hands-on exercises, participants will develop practical skills that can be immediately applied in their professional work. The training will provide opportunities for participants to learn from one another, exchange

experiences on current dissemination practices, and discuss challenges and innovations in communicating official statistics. Regional and international examples will be used to illustrate good practices and demonstrate how effective data visualization can improve the reach and impact of statistical products.

By strengthening participants' data visualization and communication skills, the training seeks to contribute to more effective dissemination of Official Statistics and SDG indicators, increased data and statistical literacy among users, and greater use of statistical evidence in policymaking and public discourse. Ultimately, improved visualization practices can help NSOs maximize the value of their statistical products and reinforce public trust in official data.

II. Target Audience

The course is designed for mid-level statisticians and staff from National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, whose main responsibilities include the analysis, production and dissemination of Official Statistics and SDG indicators. Approximately 14 participants will be invited to attend. The participants are expected to have a basic proficiency in the analysis of statistical data and experience or appetite in communication and dissemination of statistical indicators.

III. Course design and content

The course integrates presentations, exercises, and handouts on methods and topics used in Data Visualization. Plenary and group discussions will be organized throughout the course.

The topics covered in this course include:

- Fundamentals of data visualization and visual communication.
- Types of charts and principles of effective graphic design.
- Common visualization errors and misleading graphics.
- Visualizing Official Statistics and SDG indicators.
- Statistical maps, dashboards, and interactive visualizations.
- Ethical and inclusive data storytelling.

IV. How do I prepare for this training?

To facilitate exchange of experiences, **each participant will need to submit a country presentation** of no more than 5 slides on or before Wednesday 11 November, 2026 to escap-siap@un.org and christophe.bontemps@un.org. Participants will be required to deliver their country presentations on day one of the training. Each participant will be allocated a maximum of 10 minutes for their oral presentation. It should briefly introduce one or two graphics recently used for reporting Official Statistics, present the data used, the main challenges encountered and outline the graphical choices decisions. More information will be provided prior to the course.

V. Learning Objectives

At the end of the course participants should be able to:

- **Apply** the principles of effective data visualization for Official Statistics and SDG indicators.
- **Design** clear, accurate, and impactful statistical graphics.
- **Critically assess** visualizations and identify misleading or ineffective design practices.
- **Apply and Promote** ethical practices, inclusiveness, and user-centered design in statistical communication.
- **Develop** practical strategies for improving the visualization and communication of Official Statistics within their organizations.

VI. Dates and venue

The workshop will take place over **four days**, from **17-20 November**, in Chiba, Japan.

VII. Course Design and Content (preliminary)

The course will delivered in person, with lectures, handout sessions, case studies and interactive exercises. A certificate of participation will be delivered at the end of the course.

Module	Coverage
Day 1: Principles of Data Visualization	• What is Data Visualization? • Visualizing SDGs • Countries examples
Day 2: Data Visualization good practices	• Data Visualization Rules • Misleading Data Visualization • Tables vs Graphics
Day 3: Advanced Data Visualization	• Statistical Maps • Visualizing complexity • Visualizing in high dimensions
Day 4: Storytelling and interactivity	• Storytelling • Inclusivity in data visualization • Interactivity