

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

**Second Meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

**4 March 2016**

**Chiba, Japan**

**CONCEPT NOTE [DRAFT]**

**Expanding the Inventory of and access to trainers on official statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region [Agenda Item 4]**

**I. Background**

The Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is a regional training institute of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Since its establishment, SIAP has trained statisticians and other professionals from across the world in different areas of official statistics. SIAP work programme is set by its governing council. The main areas of focus are fundamentals of official statistics, population and social statistics, gender statistics, SNA and economic statistics, agricultural and rural statistics, environmental statistics and managing for quality of statistics.

In the delivery of statistical training, SIAP uses different modes such as short term workshops, on-line training, country workshops and residential courses. In all training programmes, different partners are involved and they include member states, various regional and international agencies, universities and sister agencies within the UN system. Such partnership involves provision of experts and other support in kind such as hosting arrangements.

One of the main challenges in the region involves lack of proper coordination in the delivery of statistical training by different agencies. The challenges range from lack of a certification

mechanism for trainers, the inability to share training resources, duplication of training and diversity in topic content for the same subject amongst others.

At its third session in December 2012, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics (*referred to herein as the Committee*) endorsed the objectives, strategy and mechanisms for improving regional coordination of statistical training as proposed by the Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training (WG-RCST), which was established by the Committee at its second session. Consequently, the Committee decided to establish a Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and Pacific (*referred to herein as the Network*). The Network provides an advisory role in the coordination of statistical training, with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) as its secretariat.

The motivation for establishment of the Network is to ensure minimal duplication and standardized content and quality by a wide range of experts. Furthermore, it is a realization that different agencies, institutions and countries are delivering training in official statistics in the region, but in a manner that is not well coordinated. As such, a coordinated training platform can ensure that different institutions, agencies and experts can have access to a database of training resources. Currently different agencies have their own- training resources that are not easily accessible and there is limited platform in which other partners can tap in. Similarly, coordinated training can enhance creation of a standard system of certifying trainers.

## **II. Objectives**

The inventory of training resources on official statistics will provide a central portal in which training partners and institutions within the Asia-Pacific region have access to experts and materials that can be shared. The Network is expected to take leadership in facilitating the creation of such an inventory and explore mechanisms regarding its hosting and viability. It is also expected that the network will explore modalities of creating a certification system for all trainers involved in the field of official statistics. Specifically, the objectives are to:

1. Develop a framework and mechanism for creation of a database of training resources (experts and available contents) in the various fields of official statistics within the Asia-Pacific Region;
2. Explore means of sharing training resources and other developments in the field of official statistics that have to be incorporated into training programmes;
3. Consider hosting arrangements of an online inventory of training resources, roles of different members of the Network, and standardized criteria for trainers that should be in the inventory;
4. Discuss means of certifying trainers of official statistics.

### **III. Mechanism and Participation**

In creation of the inventory of and access to training resources on official statistics, network members representing national statistical offices, training institutions and international/regional organisations are expected to identify and develop a timeline of activities and roles and responsibilities leading to an accessible inventory of training resources. It is expected that specific criteria on the attributes of trainers that would be part of the database, and mechanisms for certification of trainers on official statistics shall be proposed. Furthermore, development of the inventory will be incorporated into the work programme of the network.