Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The Sixth Meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held through video conferencing on 2 December 2020 which was attended by fifty-three participants from eighteen countries and ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, SESRIC, UNICEF, UN Women, PARIS21, ESCAP-SD and SIAP as well as the Chair of the Network.

Reports on the activities of the subgroup on gender statistics and the subgroup on economic statistics were highly appreciated by the Network. The members of the Network stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives to other thematic areas of statistics and suggested that accreditation of courses and certification of experts should be carried out internally at an initial stage and would consider the need for its expansion after thorough assessment. Likewise, the subgroup on economic statistics training presented an update of its activities which include a virtual training program for trainers and an e-learning course on labor accounts which was jointly being developed with SIAP.

There were sharing among the members of the Network as they explain the methodology adopted for evaluation of the training programs they organized and how they utilized the results of their evaluations. Their presentations included a brief description of their training programs, adopted methodologies and instruments for evaluation as well as ways in presenting results of evaluations. China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Iran did their presentations and with these presentations, the members of the Network agreed to further improve evaluation of training in their respective countries. Likewise, the members of the Network agreed to share materials, textbooks, and other relevant information for the development of statistical training amongst the members including SIAP.

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Agenda of the Sixth Meeting of the Network

I.   Background

1.   In September 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics established the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, with a mandate to act as a facilitator of information-sharing and of coordination among statistical training institutes in the region. Since then, the Network has been in to touch with its members through its meetings to plan and implement activities to meet its mandate.

2.   The fourth meeting of the Network was held in Chiba, Japan, on 12 September 2018. During this meeting, the Network approved the terms of reference of the subgroup on gender statistics,

reviewed the possible development of the training needs assessment survey and discussed the modality of accreditation of training on official statistics.

3.   The fifth meeting of the Network was held in Chiba, Japan, on 10 December 2019. Reports on the activities of the subgroup on gender statistics as well as that of the subgroup on economic statistics were considered by the Network. The Network recommended the creation of a small group to initiate discussion on accreditation and standardization of the training curriculum in the subgroup on gender statistics. Likewise, the Network supported the 2020–2024 Strategic Plan of SIAP.

II.   Summary of Proceedings

Session 1: Report of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics

4.   UN Women reported activities of the subgroup on gender statistics training in 2020 and highlighted priority activities planned for 2021. As a follow up to the discussion during the previous Network meeting on accreditation and certification of trainings, UN Women also presented how the accreditation and certification scheme would be implemented in its future gender statistics trainings.

- UNSD asked UN Women how the subgroup intended to implement the accreditation and certification in future gender statistics training programmes and also whether the accreditation and certification scheme would involve outside or third-party accreditation and certification services. UN Women responded that participants of a training program would be certified jointly by UN Women and SIAP if they attended all the sessions of the training programme and successfully completed the final test. As agreed in the previous Network meeting, the certification and accreditation system would be introduced initially through an internal process. SIAP also agreed that the system of accreditation and certification should be initially carried out jointly by UN Women and SIAP and would consider the need for third party certification afterwards.

- ESCAP-SD complimented the works of the subgroup and stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives to other thematic areas of statistics (e.g., disaster related statistics) to promote the work of the subgroup.

- FAO emphasized the need and benefits of training in gender statistics developed by two agencies and requested UN Women that the resources for such trainings could be housed in a repository of training on gender statistics. UN Women responded that a link can be created to host resources developed from such bilateral training programmes.

- Nepal expressed appreciation for training with FAO in partnership with UN Women on computing SDG indicators 5.a.1 (a) and 5.a.1 (b) which are gender related indicators.

Session 2: Report of the Subgroup on Economic Statistics

5.   ESCAP-SD reported recent activities of the subgroup on economic statistics training and provided an overview of the mandate of the subgroup and list of activities conducted by the subgroup. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, virtual training programmes for trainers were conducted and an e-learning course on labor accounts was being jointly developed with SIAP.

- Nepal expressed appreciation for the training of trainers on economic statistics organized by ESCAP-SD.

- Maldives thanked the subgroup for delivering the training of trainers and said that it was a great initiative and has increased the confidence of staff in delivering similar types of training.

Session 3: Activities in Global Network of Institution for Statistical Training (GIST) by SIAP

6. SIAP presented the activities of GIST in 2020 and its working methods and work streams. Major activities in 2020 were focused on online gateway and e-learning community of practice, statistical literacy and addressing NSO needs. The active participation of the Network members is being encouraged in this endeavor.

Session 4: Method of evaluation of training courses by national statistical training institutes

7. Countries had been requested to make a brief presentation of about five minutes to explain the methodology adopted for evaluation of training programmes organized by their statistical training institute and how they utilized the results of their evaluations. Their presentations are expected to include a brief description of their training programs, adopted methodologies and instruments for evaluation as well as ways in presenting results of their evaluations.

8. National statistical training institutes in the region made presentations on evaluation methodology of various trainings they have conducted and shared some of the issues they have faced in evaluations.

- China: Statistical Education and Training Center/China International Statistical Training Center (CISTC) in collaboration with UN Statistics conducted evaluation of training programmes through tests, questionnaires and interviews. The main use of this evaluation is to improve the quality of training materials and the organization of the training itself. The Center said that it has planned to study the long-term impact of the training programmes. SIAP asked whether participants of SIAP e-learning courses in China experienced any language issues since these courses are conducted in English. China responded that young statisticians speak English, so language was not a big issue. However, it would be helpful to have the training content be translated into Chinese, especially for regional offices.

- India: National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) conducted short term, long term, specialized, and awareness-raising training program. Evaluation of the training program focus on assessing its output, outcome and impact. On the other hand, the evaluation at the output level focuses on evaluation of resource persons through feedback score given by participants. The evaluation of participants is being done through tests and presentations. Such evaluation at the outcome level is being used for the assessment of increased efficiency and knowledge acquisition which is reported through its annual performance appraisal report. Evaluation at the impact level focuses on growth evaluation of the statistical system and it was indirectly measured in terms of production of more and improved economic and social statistical indicators. In addition, NSSTA reported that it has faced a few issues in evaluation such as difficulties in quantifying whether the training met the intended objective, resolving biased feedback from the participants and harmonizing contradictory responses from participants. SIAP asked whether the evaluation process of the virtual trainings has been the same as the face-to-face training programmes. NSSTA responded that during this pandemic period all courses were done in virtual mode and there were infrastructure problems for some of the participants but gradually those were resolved. Maldives asked the educational background (entry level) of the participants of the training and NSSTA responded that majority of them were post-graduates except for the trainees

from state governments and other trainees from the universities which included undergraduate students.

- Indonesia: Education and Training Center (ETC), BPS-Statistics Indonesia conducted degree and non-degree training programmes. The presentation focused on the evaluation process of the latter. In addition to short term training programmes, ETC also has programmes on soft skills. Long term programmes (2-4 months) offer management and leadership training. Evaluations are being done through online survey and in-depth interview for assessment of lecturers, organizers and facilities. Participants have been evaluated through pre- and post-tests conducted for each programme. SIAP asked if the e-learning courses were facilitated or self-paced. In addition, SIAP asked how information was collected in assessing the impact of the Kirkpatrick model for selected training courses mentioned in the presentation. ETC responded that both facilitated and self-paced e-learning courses were offered. ETC uses e-survey to collect information for the Kirkpatrick evaluation model. China asked how ETC identified demands for training programmes. Indonesia responded that it conducts regular training needs analysis to identify training demands in collaboration with relevant partners.

- Japan: Statistical Research and Training Institute (SRTI) provides group training, face to face trainings and e-learning programmes. The effectiveness of the training content is evaluated after the training. Evaluation results are used for planning future training and improvement of the existing training programmes.

- Malaysia: Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) conducted short term and long term programmes at three levels (basic, intermediate and advance). Training courses were delivered in different formats (face to face, virtual, e-learning, blended). DOSM has two types of evaluations. First one focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of the training in terms of content, objective, benefit, knowledge and skills gained and the performance of the lecturers. The second component of the evaluation is done by supervisors of the trainee three months after the completion of the training. This is done by assessing the work outcome. The results of the evaluation have been used to enhance future courses and as inputs in identifying future learning needs.

- Republic of Korea: Statistics Training Institute (STI) conducts short- and longer-term courses as well as e-learning courses. Upon completion of the courses, all trainees take satisfaction survey about the curriculum, lecture content, lecturers, training facilities, and other components of the training. STI also conduct a separate survey for selected training courses to assess whether the contents of training are useful in their line of work and this survey aims to collect information from the trainees as well as from the trainee's supervisors. The results of the evaluation are published on a monthly basis and are reported to the Head of the Institute. The results have been used also to enhance the curriculum, contents, the performance of lecturers and the other components of the training program. Likewise, these results have also been provided to the higher authorities for the annual evaluation of the Institute. SIAP asked whether STI conducts post-training assessment in six months or a year later. STI responded that evaluations have been done immediately after the completion of the training courses in most of the cases. In a very few courses, the evaluations were conducted within two or three months after the completion of the course.

- Iran: Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) provided only short-term courses on several topics. Evaluations are being conducted immediately after completion of a training and before their final exam. Evaluation includes questions on training facilities, contents, and

lecturer effectiveness. Likewise, suggestions on how to improve future course are also being requested.

- After hearing these presentations, the members of the Network agreed to further improve their countries' evaluation of training.

9.   The members also provided written information on the system of evaluation adopted in the Institute. SIAP informed all the participants that the information collected would be utilized for the development of guidelines on evaluation of training programmes by GIST.

Session 5: Other matters

10.   SIAP presented the status on the development of database of training information and requested members to provide inputs and update training information in the database.

11.   China requested feedback from SIAP on the past SIAP e-learning courses, a focal point person to maintain a regular communication with SIAP and recommendations on statistical textbooks that they can use for their own trainings. SIAP accepted these requests, and added that SIAP also can provide the training materials to China and if there was a need to translate them into Chinese language, they can follow the system adopted for translation of material in Russian language with the support of ROSTAT.

12.   Indonesia expressed interests in further collaboration with SIAP. Indonesia informed that under the context of One Data policy in Indonesia, demands for statistics have been coming from various ministries, private institutions and other organizations. In this regard, Indonesia would like to collaborate with SIAP to design statistical trainings to meet such demands. SIAP welcomed the proposal from Indonesia and reaffirmed its willingness in identifying the areas of training for further collaboration.

13.   The members of the Network and SIAP also agreed to share materials, textbooks, and other relevant information for the development of statistical training, in general.

14.   The seventh Network meeting will be held in the week beginning 13 December 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand.

III.   Organization of the Meeting

A.   Opening of the Meeting

14.   The sixth meeting of the Network for the Coordination of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held through video conferences on 2 December 2020.

15.   The Chair of the Network, Ms. Zita Albacea officially opened the Sixth Meeting of the Network.

B.   Attendance

16.   The meeting was attended by fifty-three participants from: Azerbaijan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, ASEAN Secretariat, FAO, SESRIC, UNICEF, UN Women, PARIS21, ESCAP-SD and SIAP as well as the Chair of the Network.

C.   Adoption of the Agenda

17.   The meeting adopted the agenda as presented in the attached Annex.

Annex. Agenda of the Sixth Meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

Tokyo Time	Sessions	Presenter
14:00-14:10	**Opening** • Welcome message from SIAP • Welcome message from the Chair of the Network • Adoption of the Agenda	**Mr. Ashish Kumar** *Director, SIAP* **Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea** *Chair of the Network*
14:10-14:45	**Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics training** • Report of activities in 2020 • Accreditation and standardization of training curriculum • Priority activities for 2021 pertaining to gender statistics • Perspective of long-term plan for capacity building on gender statistics	**Ms. Sara Duerto Valero** *Statistics Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women*
14:45-15:05	**Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics training** • Report of activities and perspective	**Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen** *Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP*
15:05-15:15	**Session 3: Activities in Global Network of Institution for Statistical Training (GIST) by SIAP** • Report of the progress	**Mr. Ashish Kumar** *Director, SIAP*
Break		

Tokyo Time	Sessions	Presenter
15:30-16:30	**Session 4: Method of evaluation of training courses by national statistical training institutes** • Presentation from national statistical training institutions on methodology of evaluation of training programmes which may include (i) national training programmes, (ii) international training programmes and (iii) training programmes conducted in collaboration with SIAP 　• Description of present programme evaluation methodology 　• Is it measuring output, outcome and impact of the training programmes? 　• Issues faced in evaluation and suggestions • The shared reports and discussion would give an opportunity to reflect on the methodology adopted and would contribute to development of guidance document on methodology of evaluation by GIST.	**Ms. Song Shaoying** *Deputy Director-General, Statistical Education and Training Center of the National Bureau of Statistics of China* **Ms. Shailja Sharma** *Director General, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, India* **Ms. Eni Lestariningsih** *Chief of Education and Training Centre, BPS Statistics Indonesia* **Mr. Tsumura Akira** *Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Director- General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan* **Mr. Mohd Ridauddin Masud** *Director of the Malaysia Statistics Training Institute* **Mr. Bongsu Choi** *Deputy-Dierctor, Statistics Korea* **Mr. Ashkan Shabbak** *Head, Statistical Research and Training Centre, Statistical Centre of Iran*
16:30-16:50	**Session 5: Other business** • Development of database of training information • The date and venue of the seventh session of the Network • Others	**Mr. Makoto Shimizu** *Deputy Director of SIAP*
16:50-16:55	**Closing** • Closing message	**Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea** *Chair of the Network*