An increasing number of countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing identity management systems as a tool to enhance effectiveness of government action and to facilitate citizens’ access to public services or entitlements.

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At the onset of preparations for 2020 Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Bangkok, this event will discuss how strong civil registration systems can be a basis for inclusive, efficient and sustainable identity management systems.

Welcome Speech: H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
Moderator: Mr Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes, Economics and Financing
Presenters: Dr. S.M. Mursalin, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Pakistan
Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Malaysia
Mr. Li Hong, Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP
Ms. Kendra J. Gregson, Regional Advisor, Child Protection, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP

Closing Speech: Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP

Side Event
at 75th session of the Commission, United Nations ESCAP

Civil Registration and Identity for All, a Pathway to SDGs

Where: Meeting room A, UNCC, Bangkok
When: 13:00-14:00 Wednesday, 29 May 2019
(Coffee and snack provided at 12:30 hrs.)
Mr. Li Hong is the Permanent Representative of China to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). He assumed his current position in 2013. Before joining the Chinese Mission to ESCAP, he was the Vice President and Secretary General of China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA) from 2009-2013, engaged in the academic study and track II diplomacy. He was the deputy representative of China to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Hague from 2006-2009. He worked in the Permanent Mission of China for International Organizations in Vienna from 2002 to 2006, dealing with political affairs in the framework of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahdin is the Chief Statistician of the Department of Statistics Malaysia. He has over 29 years of experience in various fields of statistics such as national accounts; external trade; industrial, construction and services. His career has spanned as head of national statistical office, Executive Committee of Institute Statistics Malaysia and Chairman of the National Organising Committee of ISI World Statistics Congress 2019 whereby Malaysia will be the host. He is the Chairman of the ESCAP Bureau of the Committee on Statistics and Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission. He also served in the Regional Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

Dr. Syed Mursalin has worked for over 30 years in organizations such as Ministries of Health and Population, UN –Organizations, and USAID. In the capacity of National Manager of the Ministry of Health, he played a crucial role in the design and execution of the National Health Information / Disease Surveillance Program throughout Pakistan. As CRVS Adviser he facilitates Pakistan’s CRVS initiative and coordinates countrywide campaign on CRVS sensitization and promotion. Currently he is working on the development of National CRVS Strategic Planning process. He has represented Pakistan on a number of international event/ conferences specially in the areas of Health Information Systems, Reproductive Health and CRVS.

Ms. Kendra Gregson is the Child Protection Regional Advisor for UNICEF South Asia. She has worked for over 35 years in the areas of social welfare and justice for children. She managed UNICEF’s civil registration programming from 2009-2014, including the development of programming guides and guidance on the use of ICT for birth registration. Currently she is supporting UNICEF country offices in South Asia in their child protection programming. This includes supporting countries to use civil registration as a mechanism to prevent child marriage, and being a member of the ‘initiator group’ for the South Asia Civil Registration Network (CR8).

Ms. Gemma Van Halderen is the Director of Statistics Division in Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), based in Bangkok. ESCAP works to improve the use of statistics for evidence-based decision-making and to develop and disseminate quality statistics for inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies in the ESCAP region. Prior to joining ESCAP, Gemma was a member of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Executive Team, leading the transformation of ABS’ statistical programs and implementation of modernised statistical capabilities.