Civil Registration and Identity for All, a Pathway to SDGs

Meeting room A, UNCC, Bangkok
13:00-14:00 Wednesday, 29 May 2019
(Coffee and snacks provided at 12:30 hrs.)

Introduction

An increasing number of countries in Asia and the Pacific are implementing identification systems, often based on civil registration, to facilitate the access to various services or rights such as social assistance or health insurance. At the onset of preparations for 2020 Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, this event will discuss how strong and effective civil registration systems can be a basis for inclusive, efficient and sustainable identity management systems and help advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Programme

Moderator: Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes, Economics and Financing, ESCAP

Welcome speech
H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP

Presentations

1. Enabling environment for an efficient civil registration and vital statistics system in Pakistan
   Dr. S.M. Mursalin, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Pakistan
   Dr. Mursalin will present on the relation between civil registration and the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) of Pakistan, and the challenges encountered linking them. He will also talk about the recent efforts made by Pakistan to improve the civil registration system and how to strengthen the identification system.

2. Coordinating civil registration and vital statistics in Malaysia
   Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Malaysia
   Dr. Uzir will present on the coordination of civil registration and vital statistics in Malaysia. He will explain why civil registration, identity management and the production of vital statistics (e.g., birth rate) should be seen as a common system rather than separate activities, and why coordination between the different Ministries/Departments involved is needed.

3. Chinese Practice on Civil Registration and Identity for all
   Mr. Li Hong, Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP
   Mr. Li will discuss the experience of China on improving its civil registration system. He will talk about the provision of identification to all Chinese residents. Finally, he will present the
National Basic Demography Data Base, which includes 13 data for all Chinese residents. He will explain how the Data Base facilitates the access to governmental services.

4. **Identity, a right from birth**  
Ms. Kendra J. Gregson, Regional Advisor, Child Protection, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia  
Ms. Gregson will highlight civil registration as a right. She will explain the role of civil registration in providing identity for all. Finally, she will underline the need for cross-country collaboration as part of the Civil Registration Network of South Asia (CR8).

5. **Strengthening civil registration in Asia and the Pacific**  
Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP  
Ms. Van Halderen will present on the Asia-Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade, 2015-2024. She will talk about the progress done and issues requiring more efforts. She will highlight the relation between civil registration and the SDGs and conclude with information on the 2020 Ministerial Conference on CRVS.

**Closing Remarks**  
Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP