

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to be joining the session representing as the Chair of the 18th Session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

The Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific was held on 12 and 13 December 2022 in hybrid mode with members participating in-person in Chiba, Japan and on-line.

During the session, Council members expressed their views on development of e-learning training materials and methodologies by the Institute. The Council also considered its regular agenda items, including the report of the Director of the Institute on its achievements in 2022 and the proposed work programme and financial plan for 2023.

Even under the COVID-19 pandemic, training needs were strong. The Institute organized and delivered virtual interactive training courses. The number of participants was 3,388 in 2022, largest in history of the Institute. Delivery of e-learning courses was supported by a couple of webinars. The Council acknowledged the achievements of the Institute during the pandemic conditions.

The Council acknowledged the advantages and disadvantages of e-learning, face-to-face and hybrid trainings and recommended that multiple training modalities be considered depending on topic and resource availability; noted the importance of having online courses available in languages other than English; recognized the need to evaluate training courses in the long term in order to assess their effectiveness and impact; and recommended that the training needs survey be conducted on regular basis subject to available resources.

The Institute proposed 35 training courses including 13 e-learning courses as the work programme and financial plan for 2023, with the assumption that COVID-19 situation would improve during 2023. The Council reviewed and endorsed the work programme and financial plan of the Institute.

Thank you madam/mister Chair for this opportunity to present the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Institute to the Commission today.