
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Statistics

Second session

Bangkok, 15-17 December 2010

Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

Coordination of statistical capacity-building activities:

Statistical training

SIAP-ESCAP: fifth decade of statistical training

Note by the secretariat

Summary

SIAP has played a seminal role in development of official statistics in the region. This paper gives a brief account of functioning of the Institute and its planning process and development of training programme. The Institute conducts different kinds of training courses of varying duration for professionals of different skill levels.

The purpose of this paper is to share SIAP's experience of how it is striving to initiate a coordinated effort to devise a demand-driven training programme to address the member States' training needs in official statistics.

Contents

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| I. Introduction | 3 |
| II. Mission, Vision, Goal, Strategies | 3 |
| III. Institutional Framework | 4 |
| IV. Developing and Implementing Training Programme | 6 |
| V. Forging Partnership in Statistical Training | 11 |
| VI. Training Programme, AY 2010 - AY 2014 | 13 |
| A. Tokyo Metropolitan Area based Training Courses | 13 |
| i. SIAP-JICA courses | |
| ii. Short-term courses | |
| B. Outreach Programme | 15 |
| i. Regional/subregional courses | |
| ii. Country courses | |
| C. Distance Training and E-Training Resources | 16 |
| i. SIAP-JICA courses | |
| ii. SIAP-JAXA courses | |
| iii. E-training resources | |
| D. Research-based Training Programme | 16 |
| E. Programme for Managers of National Statistical Offices | 17 |
| VII. Conclusion | 17 |
| Annex Table 1. Number of training courses conducted since 1970 by categories of training..... | 19 |
| Annex Table 2. Number of TMA-based courses since 1970 by course title | 20 |
| Annex Table 3. Number of regional/subregional courses conducted since 1970 by main theme | 21 |
| Annex Table 4. Number of regional/subregional courses conducted in collaboration with Country Partner Institutes, April 2005 – November 2010 | 22 |
| Annex Table 5. Number of Participants by country and category of training since 1970 | 23 |

I. Introduction

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) is a regional institution of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) engaged in training the personnel of the developing countries of mainly Asia and the Pacific in official statistics. It also trains officials of developing countries beyond the region.

The Institute, originally known as the Asian Statistical Institute, was founded in May 1970 to mitigate the critical shortage of personnel trained in official statistics in most developing countries in Asia and the Pacific and of national as well as international statistical training facilities. Over the 40 years of its existence, the Institute has made efforts not only in developing professional skills of the government statisticians of member States, but has also contributed towards building up a global community among the government statisticians through networking course participants from the Asia and Pacific region and beyond and thus promoting South-South cooperation. As of October 2010, 12,337 government officials/statisticians from 127 countries and territories has benefited from SIAP's training.

Statistical capability in the region has grown significantly over the past few decades. A number of countries now have well-developed national statistical offices, and some have their own statistical training facilities. However, many countries still have few statistical training facilities, and are faced with a substantial unmet need for statistical training for their staff.

SIAP offers practice-oriented training courses for official statisticians working at National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and at line ministries to enhance their capabilities of collection, analysis and dissemination of timely and high-quality statistics for economic and social development planning. SIAP envisages broadening the impact of its training courses by encouraging participation of alumni, who would facilitate wider dissemination of knowledge, in building training capability in their respective countries.

II. Mission, vision, goal and strategies

Mission

The mission of SIAP is “to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyze and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities” (*ESCAP resolution 61/2*).

Vision

The vision of SIAP is to establish itself as the centre of the statistical training network and the leading training institute for official statistics that provides and coordinates high quality training services.

Goal

SIAP's goal is to contribute towards inclusive and sustainable development by promoting understanding and advancement of official statistics through training professionals and training the trainers.

Strategies

The Institute has shifted from a multi-year work programme to a more strategic, results-oriented approach of planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. Since the establishment of SIAP, most countries in the region have undergone enormous economic and social changes. These changes have led to a growing demand for statistical information from the governments to plan for and sustain economic and social progress in their respective countries. The statistical capability of NSOs in the region, in general, has not been able to keep pace with the growing demand from the government and other agencies. The Institute has thus intensified its training activities by expanding their scope, range and modalities in order to increase responsiveness to the needs of countries and to facilitate the implementation of the priority areas of ESCAP. The strategies adopted for this purpose are:

(a) working in partnership with NSOs, training institutes, universities in the region, United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations;

(b) training the trainers;

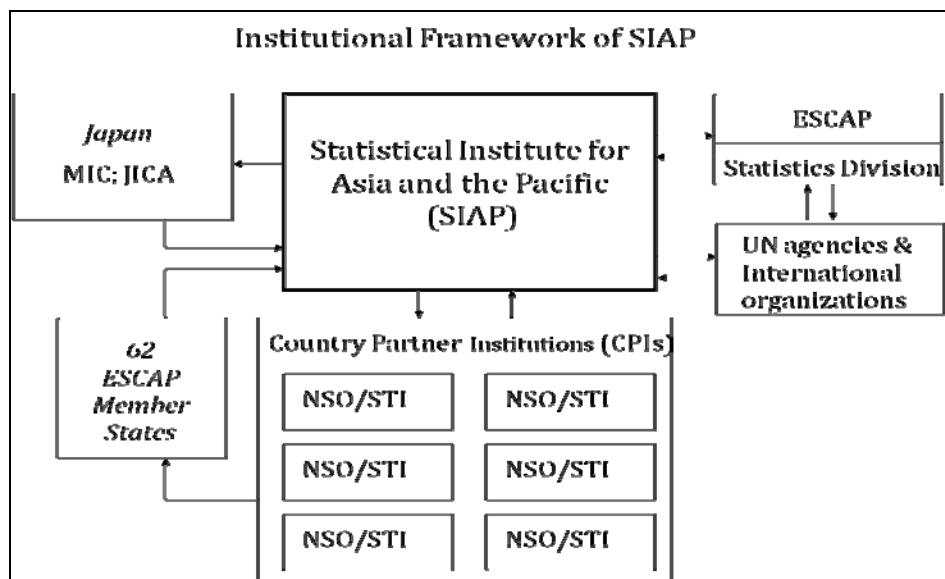
(c) monitoring the effectiveness of SIAP through measuring outcomes;

(d) helping senior managers in coping with the growing demands; and

(e) improving the training programme and mode of delivery to meet the changing needs.

III. Institutional framework

SIAP, in fulfilling its mandate, is guided by the relevant resolutions of UN General Assembly, and the resolutions and decisions of the ESCAP. Through the Governing Council of SIAP and the ESCAP's Committee of Statistics, ESCAP reviews the operations of the Institute, including its administrative and financial status, and the annual and long-term plans. The Governing Council, commissioned by ESCAP to oversee the activities of the SIAP, comprises representatives of the host country Japan and eight other member States of ESCAP elected by the Commission.

Figure 1. Institutional Framework of SIAP

The training programme of the Institute is an integral component of the statistics subprogramme of ESCAP and its results contribute towards achieving expected accomplishments of the latter. The Statistics Division of ESCAP (SD) and SIAP complement each other in building national statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific. While SD focuses on advocacy and technical cooperation on emerging areas and international standards, SIAP provides statistical training in the practical applications of the international standards and methodologies, mainly focusing on the areas where the standards are already established or well developed.

The host Government of Japan has been providing major bulk (85%) of annual financial resources, administrative and infrastructural support through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC). The Government of Japan also sponsors fellowships for all Tokyo-Metropolitan Area (TMA) based SIAP-JICA courses through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In addition, the Institute carries out its distance training with support of MIC through JAXA's satellite WINDS and JICA-net service. Other Japanese government agencies and universities contribute greatly towards conduct of training courses at SIAP by providing expert advises and recourse persons.

Other member States of ESCAP also actively support with annual cash contributions as well as in-kind contributions by providing their training facilities for SIAP's outreach training courses and services of their experts for both TMA-based and other courses of the institute. SIAP has been cooperating with the national institutes of China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines as well as Hong Kong, China; and Macao, China as Country Partner Institutions (CPIs) to conduct regional and subregional training courses.

During the recent years, the Institute has strengthened its collaboration with the UN agencies and other international organizations like UNSD, UNDP, UNFPA, IMF, ILO, ADB, World Bank, PARIS 21, and SPC. Combining its efforts with the international bodies have helped the Institute in contributing and complementing for the training activities

undertaken for the region to foster coordination for greater impact on statistical capacity development.

IV. Developing and implementing training programme

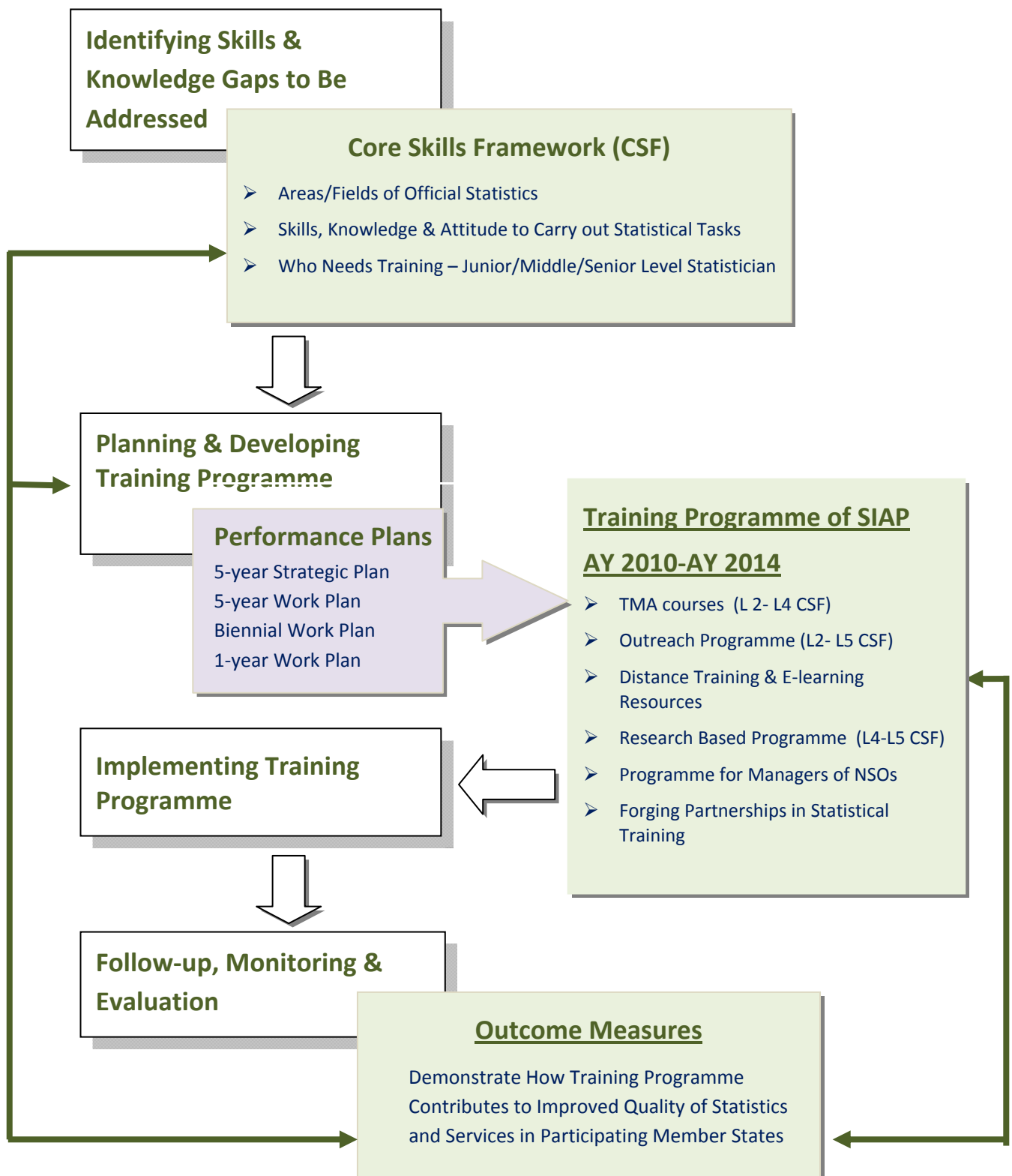
The process of developing and implementing demand-driven training programme of SIAP largely consists of four interconnected stages. There is no sharp division between these stages. Each stage has close interconnection and overlap with other stages and, therefore, influences each other. The stages are:

- a. Identifying skills and knowledge gaps to be addressed by training
- b. Planning and developing training programme
- c. Implementation of training programme
- d. Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation

a. Identifying skills and knowledge gaps to be addressed by training

Regular interaction with the NSOs in the region and international organizations provides the Institutes with a general understanding of training needs and knowledge gaps. Conducting the training courses and the feedbacks received from the participants also help in assessing the knowledge levels as well as the specific training needs. In addition, the periodical Needs Assessment Surveys conducted by the Institute provide a comprehensive account of the training needs in the region. The Institute uses a core skills framework, developed with support of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Statistics New Zealand, to identify the training needs and assess the deficiencies in the knowledge base of the NSO officials working at different levels.

Core Skills Framework (CSF): The framework has been designed to help managers, recruiters, staff members and trainers, across the region to have a common framework to identify the necessary professional skills required within an NSO, and also determine how to develop these skills. The Framework has been designed to assist the official statisticians in developing their professional carriers and to focus on the priority training areas identified for the region.

Figure 2. Steps in developing and delivering demand-driven training of SIAP

CSF would enable NSOs and other statistical offices in government service to identify what is needed for their capacity/skills development over a period of several years. CSF would also enable SIAP to develop training programmes and deliver training services based on training needs of countries. The CSF is a living framework which will continue to be revised

and improved. The current CSF is not a final and complete list of skills; it is a starting point which provides a base for developing a standardized list of skills. For details please visit our website: <http://www.unsiap.or.jp/index.php>.

b. Planning and developing training programme

Planning and programming is one of the fundamental components of developing coordinated response to the needs of member States. In developing the implementation plan, SIAP was guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the ESCAP, in particular the following resolutions 2006 / 6 “Strengthening statistical capacity”; ESCAP resolutions: 61/2 “Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific”; 62/10. Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific; 64/ “Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission”; 65/2 “Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific”. Institute’s current programme of training activities is based on:

- (i) 5-year strategic plan;
- (ii) 5-year implementation plan – called ‘Long Term Work Plan’;
- (iii) biennial work plan and
- (iv) annual work plan.

These are reviewed and endorsed by the Governing Council on yearly basis.

(i) The 5-year Strategic plan

The strategic plan provides the direction for the Institute to enhance its effectiveness by being more responsiveness to the needs of countries in the region. To ensure the medium- to long-term stability of the Institute, the Governing Council of SIAP, at its third session (November 2007), proposed the development of a strategic plan of the Institute for the five academic years (AY) period: AY2010-AY2014 (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2015).

Accordingly, a strategic plan was developed, which was endorsed by the Governing Council in its fourth session (2008). The current strategic plan was developed through the excellent collaborative efforts of the SD and Programme Management Division (PMD) of ESCAP, incorporating feedback from the Government of Japan and other member States. The results-based management approach of ESCAP was employed in developing the strategic plan. It provides a logical framework, which identifies the results and the performance indicators for which SIAP would be accountable to its stakeholders. It also includes rough estimates of required resources. The plan is a living document, the overall strategies of which are kept flexible in order to accommodate the changing demand and reflect the lessons drawn while implementing the plan. For details please visit our website: <http://www.unsiap.or.jp/index.php>.

(ii) 5-year Implementation plan – “Long Term Work Plan”

The implementation plan of the Institute, called “Long-Term Work Plan”, is based on the Strategic Plan for AY 2010 – AY 2014. While

endorsing the Institute's strategic plan for 2010-2015, the Governing Council advised SIAP to prepare a detailed implementation plan, describing proposed activities, availability of resources, timelines, and methods for ensuring accountability like monitoring and evaluation. As recommended, a detailed implementation plan was developed, endorsed by Governing Council of SIAP in November 2009 and supported by the Commission at its 66th session in May 2010.

The implementation plan was developed on basis of the results of the 2009 Training Needs Survey conducted by SIAP among NSOs of the members of ESCAP and ESCAP's strategic framework, particularly the sub-programme 7: Statistics for the biennium 2010 – 2011.

The implementation plan includes the training framework of the Institute for the planned five years consisting of six different types of training programme: 1) TMA-based courses which include SIAP-JICA training courses and other short term courses; 2) outreach program which includes regional/sub-regional courses and country courses; 3) research based training program; 4) distance training and e-learning training; 5) program for managers of NSOs; and 6) forging partnerships in statistical training.

(iii) Biennial work plan

Since its establishment in 1970, SIAP had operated on a project basis until it became a subsidiary body of ESCAP in 1995. Since then, SIAP has envisaged to align its activities with priority areas of ESCAP. From 2006, SIAP's work plan has become an integral component of the statistics subprogramme. The current biennial work plan of SIAP for AY 2010 – AY 2011 is thus harmonized with the ESCAP's sub-programme 7 with the objective of contributing towards ESCAP's expected accomplishments.

The plan was developed within the context of the five-year long-term work plan of the Institute for AY 2010 – AY 2014 and in consultation with its host government's institutions for the TMA based courses and with other member states, particularly the hosting countries, for the outreach courses.

(iv) Annual work plan:

Annual work plans are developed from the biennial work plans. These consist of the details of training courses planned for the academic year, in terms of specification of time, duration, place and type of each course.

c. Implementing training programme

Implementation of the adopted training programme of the Institute involves systematic specification and identification of the following elements:

1. Aim of course.
2. Target participants.
3. Number of participants.
4. Heterogeneity.

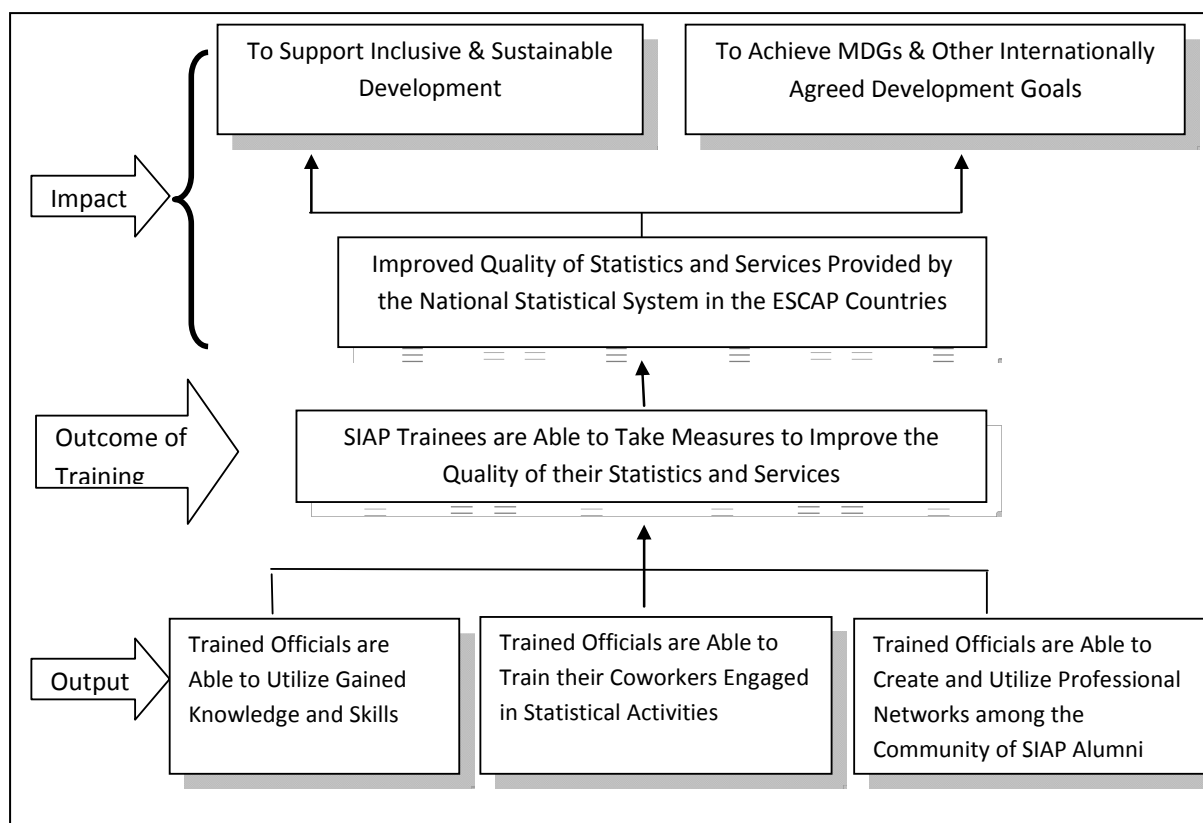
5. Training objectives:
6. Training methods.
7. Resource persons
8. Number of sessions.
9. Ratio between theoretical and practical sessions
10. Training materials.

d. Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation

The follow-up mechanism of the training activities of the SIAP consists of tracking the activities of the participants of a course on their return to their offices in respect implementation of the action plan committed by them. Main features of the action plan are briefly described below:

- i. each participant is required to develop an action plan for sharing the knowledge and skills acquired during the course with their colleagues;
- ii. identify problems that participants would encounter in implementing their new knowledge and skills;
- iii. assist the participants in establishing networks with other participants in order to share experiences in implementing their action plans.

Figure 3. Outcome Framework of SIAP Activities



For implementing new ideas, the parent offices of the participants are expected to put in place a mechanism that will ensure that the knowledge/skills acquired by the participants are passed on to as many colleagues as possible. The offices are also expected to establish a system which would let the SIAP participants discuss with the senior management and give new ideas for improved performance based on their acquired knowledge.

The implementation of the plans are monitored and evaluated based on the institutional logical framework described in the Strategic Plan of AY2010-AY2014. SIAP reports the results of these monitoring and evaluation activities to member States regularly through its Governing Council, as well as through ESCAP and its Committee on Statistics. A comprehensive evaluation of SIAP, commissioned by ESCAP, is usually carried out every five/ six years. The recent evaluation (2009) consisted of a complete assessment of the institute's operations and work programme with a view to ascertaining how it could be strengthened to better serve the needs of the members States of ESCAP. The paper was presented as a document for information at the 6th session of the Governing Council.

V. Forging partnerships in statistical training

SIAP in collaboration with the SD of ESCAP has been conducting the workshop on "Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific" biennially to identify effective strategies and corresponding coordination mechanisms to effectively address demand for training in official statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Institute has so far conducted four workshops on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. The recommendations from these workshops are given below.

Table. Recommendations from the workshops on "Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training"

| Workshop & Key issues discussed | Recommendations |
|---|---|
| 1 st Workshop, Bangkok, 2002. Dealt with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - possible institutionalization of cooperation between statistical training institutions, - practicalities of exchange between and assistance to STIs, and e-learning. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SIAP to take forward the recommendations of the workshop and organize, in its proposed role of clearinghouse, an annual meeting for organizations involved in statistical training in the ESCAP region. 2. SIAP to take initiatives in the set-up of a Task-force. 3. SIAP to set-up communication mechanisms through Newsletter and Website for sharing information on training opportunities, experiences and available training material (contents are responsibility of organizations involved). |
| 2 nd Workshop, Bangkok, 2004 Focused on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategies in establishing a network for statistical training - assessment of STIs and their activities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The creation of a Task Force and/or network; 2. This need to be raised to the level of the Committee; 3. The Governing Council of SIAP may consider allocating funds for the setting up and maintenance of a website/web pages for the STIs, including the preparation and posting of regular electronic newsletters. 4. SIAP may also consider making available on its website the contents of the CD-ROMs it makes available to its trainees and their institutions for a wider outreach. <p>The Governing Council may also consider allocating resources for organizing the thousands of training materials in electronic files residing at the present SIAP server.</p> |

| Workshop & Key issues discussed | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| <p>3rd Workshop, Bangkok, 2007</p> <p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to create a forum wherein international/ regional organizations present a multi-year package of statistical capacity building activities, or - to create a task force or sub-committee on training | <p>The possible roles of SIAP were suggested for study as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. coordinator/bridge between NSOs with training needs and potential training providers [countries, international/regional institutions], e.g. the SIAP-SPC initiative, and 2. focal point/ clearing house/ do inventory for training materials available 'globally' for sharing between and among [producer and user] countries. |
| <p>4th Workshop, Phuket, 2009</p> <p>Focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing an outcome oriented training programme using the skills based training approach, with a particular focus on the CSF that SIAP will be using - strengthening partnerships in statistical training | <p><u>SIAP</u> to refine the CSF, taking into account country suggestions in regard to NSO experiences of the specific skills required at the different levels of the CSF and specific topics required by NSOs .</p> <p><u>SD</u> to establish a centralised hub of capacity-building in the region.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Establish a forum of regional/sub-regional organisations to support countries in the region. ii) Establish a forum of statistical training institutes iii) ESCAP consider the best way of utilising existing meetings, noting that not all NSOs or regional/sub-regional organisations attend the annual UN Statistical Commission meetings <p>SIAP and ESCAP continue to sponsor the workshop on forging partnerships, to support on-going networking between NSOs, statistical training institutes and global, regional and international bodies.</p> |

Collaboration with Country Partner Institutions

SIAP continues to follow the strategy of cooperation by developing partnerships with other organizations from within and outside the UN system in carrying out its training programme. Moreover, the Institute has been active in fostering collaborative partnerships with international organizations and NSOs in implementing an expanded outreach training programme, focusing on short-term training courses in specialized topics, with the NSO contributing in-kind to the course and with SIAP providing the funds. SIAP strategy is to collaborate with NSOs with relatively more advanced statistical systems and well-equipped statistical training facilities for organization of regional and sub-regional training courses. These institutions have been developed into SIAP's CPIs and are involved in conducting regular courses using SIAP training design, content, materials and counterpart funds for participants travel and subsistence.

Partnerships in preparation of training tools

SIAP has developed a wide range of training tools/materials and documentation. These take the form of guidance documents, manuals, self-standing or material-dependent training packages, or computer-based learning tools. Besides its very rich stock of materials, developed over the years, it also seeks contributions from the experts of different fields to prepare training materials.

Training materials are distributed to reach a large number of relevant persons and institutions, utilizing technologies best suited for the purpose, such as the Internet and other means. SIAP continues to upload and upgrade the content of its website.

Partnership with Tokyo International University: post-SIAP academic opportunity

The Graduate School of Economics of Tokyo International University (TIU) has been accepting, for its graduate programme, qualified participants of selected SIAP training courses who have performed very well at SIAP. SIAP and TIU cooperate in this programme in order to make SIAP training more effective as well as to develop academic standards both in SIAP and TIU. This programme was launched in 2001 and, since then, 19 ex-SIAP-participants from 13 countries have studied/been studying at TIU to acquire their master's degree. Some of them have successfully completed PhD programme.

Target SIAP courses applicable to this programme are Group training course in production and development of official statistics in support for National development including the achievement of MDGs, Group training course in analysis, interpretation and use of official statistics, Group training course in application of information management and related ICT for official statistics, and Research based training programme.

VI. Training programme, AY 2010-AY 2014

The training courses conducted by SIAP are now structured within a framework of statistical development based on the Core Skills Framework. These training courses are mainly designed to meet the training needs of government officials/statisticians in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific. The courses conducted by SIAP can be categorised as follows:

(A) TMA-based courses: SIAP-JICA training courses and other short term courses;

(B) Outreach Program, including regional/sub-regional courses and country courses;

(C) Research based training program;

(D) Distance training and e-training resources; and

(E) Program for managers of NSOs.

(A) Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA) based Training Courses

This category consists of two components:

(i) SIAP-JICA training courses

(ii) Short-term training courses

All these courses are conducted at the premises of the Institute in Chiba, Japan. The duration of the courses vary from one week to four months (before the current year the duration of the longest course used to be six months).

(i) *SIAP-JICA Training Courses*

These are flagship training courses of the Institute and are conducted in collaboration with JICA. The SIAP-JICA courses are organized with strong support of the host government, the Government of Japan, through MIC and the active collaboration of various other government organizations and agencies, universities and private organizations in Japan. The Institute also collaborates with the NSOs and international organizations in conducting SIAP-JICA courses. The following are the SIAP-JICA training courses conducted regularly:

The 4-month training course in production and development of official statistics in support for national development including the achievement of MDGs: This course is designed to improve knowledge and develop practical skills of government junior officials/statisticians (Level: 3 as defined in “Core Skills Framework”) on fundamental aspects of official statistics from planning phase to collection, processing, tabulation, basic analysis and dissemination phases of official statistics, including indicators for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving MDGs. Main topics covered are overview of official statistics, its professional ethics, organization of national statistical systems, statistical system in Japan; survey methodologies; statistical methods and statistical computing; MDG indicators; Integrated economic statistics.

The 2-month training course in application of information management and related ICT for official statistics: This course aims to improve the knowledge and skills in census and survey data processing of the middle-level (Level 4 as defined in “Core Skills Framework”) officials involved in the use of ICT in their statistical works. They are expected to serve as core officials to develop ICT based government statistical system and/ or to help enhancing the quality and management practices of statistical databases for effective dissemination and use. Main topics covered are information architecture of national statistical system, data capture and data processing systems, statistical database system, data analysis techniques and statistical software commonly used in NSOs .

The 2-month first group training course in analysis, interpretation and use of official statistics (Economic or Social Statistics in alternate years): This course is designed to improve knowledge and develop practical skills of government middle-level officials/statisticians on social and economic statistics. It covers social statistics and economics in alternate years. The participants of this course are expected to be middle level statisticians/government officials (A mixture of Level 3 and Level 4 as defined in “Core Skills Framework”) in national statistical offices or other government agencies who are engaged in data collection, analysis and dissemination of information related to social / economic statistics, including indicators for MDGs.

The 2-month area-focused training course in integrated economic statistics, including SNA, for Central Asian countries (with interpretation into Russian language): This course is meant for the middle level officials (A mixture of Level 3 and Level 4 as defined in “Core Skills Framework”) of Central Asian countries to improve participants knowledge and skills in data collection and analysis relating to economic statistics and on the concepts, principles, and accounting framework of the 2008 SNA. Statistical methods for analysis of economic data are also covered in the course. Main topics covered were analytical framework for economic

statistics, estimation of main macroeconomic aggregates; basics of Input-Output analysis and Supply and Use Table; as well as Introduction to statistical indicators, their compilation and analysis, relevant for monitoring of MDGs.

(ii) Short-term training courses

Short-term courses complement the SIAP-JICA courses and intends to provide more senior statisticians of countries in the region an opportunity to exchange experiences on the subject-matter as well as to discuss common problems in implementing internationally agreed statistical standards in collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. They are conducted mainly in collaboration with other international agencies like Asia-Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA (APRO-UNFPA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and others. Almost all these courses are of one week duration. The following short term courses/ workshops / seminars were organized during the last academic year:

(1) workshop on examining training materials prepared for self-learning purposes (3 days),

(2) ADB/SIAP workshop on analysis, interpretation and dissemination of official statistics (15 days),

(3) APRO/UNFPA regional training course/ workshop on population census data analysis using REDATAM (5days),

(4) APRO/UNFPA regional training course on genderizing population and housing census (5 days),

(5) APRO/UNFPA regional training course/ workshop on pre-census communications and data dissemination strategies (4 days).

(B) Outreach training programme

The outreach training programs conducted by the SIAP are usually focused on training officials of a single country or a group of countries to meet their specific training needs. These complement the TMA-based training courses and cover a wide range of specialized and emerging topics in official statistics. These are usually of a short duration, ranging from 3 days to 2 weeks. Outreach programme consists of regional, sub-regional and country training courses.

(i) Regional/ subregional courses

SIAP conducts these training courses/ workshops with the support of NSOs with more advanced statistical systems and well-equipped statistical training facilities. The Institute also seeks collaborative partnership arrangements with organizations within and outside the UN system to maximize the use of its limited resources in strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific. Sub-regional training courses are usually conducted for countries of Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and ASEAN and Pacific Island countries aiming at addressing the special challenges of participating countries of the sub-regions. The course curricula are developed in consultation with the participating countries to make them relevant to their needs. These are conducted on topics like poverty measurement, Census data quality, dissemination and

communication of MDG Statistics and measuring & improving survey data quality.

(ii) *Country courses*

Country courses are usually conducted for one week and are organized at the request of countries for participants from that country. These courses are often conducted jointly with country statistical training Institute and other major institutions, including universities, that provide training for statistical personnel of NSOs. To promote South–South cooperation, neighbouring countries are sometimes invited to participate in country courses wherever appropriate and feasible. These courses are conducted on a wide range of topics like (a) analysis, interpretation, (b) small area estimation, (c) statistics of international migration, (d) national accounts, (e) population census, (f) statistical databases and (g) research in statistics.

(C) Distance training and training resources

The Institute organises distance training and e-learning for countries in Asia and the Pacific as well as outside the region. This training programme complements TMA-based and outreach training courses and has the potential of meeting the ever increasing demand for training in official statistics.

(i) *SIAP-JICA distance training*: SIAP organises distance training courses in collaboration with JICA using the Internet-based JICA-Net service. The distance training courses were conducted prior to each SIAP-JICA TMA-based course as preparatory training for selected participants of these courses. The aim of the distance training is to help the participants improve their knowledge on basics of statistical methods, economic statistics and statistical software in order to increase effectiveness of SIAP-JICA TMA-based courses.

(ii) *SIAP-JAXA distance training*: This is a satellite-based distance training programme. A one-day training course has so far been conducted for the officials of NSO, Thailand, providing them with a brief introduction to survey methodology.

(iii) *Training materials*: The Institute compiles relevant training materials to suit the needs of countries and posts them on the Institute's website. SIAP prepares and provides training materials for distance training/ e-training, maintains an archive of training materials and updates regularly e-library.

(D) Research based training programme

The duration of this programme is three months and is designed to meet the specific needs of participants and their nominating NSOs to build up research capability of official statisticians. In its new format, the programme is conducted as a mix of TMA-based and country components. Topics of research studies are proposed by the applicants in consultation with their head of NSOs. At the end of the training, the participants are expected to produce the results of their work in a form suitable for publication by the Institute.

(E) Programme for managers*Management seminar for heads of NSOs*

Management Seminar for Heads of NSOs are organised every year in collaboration with the SD of ESCAP and United Nations Statistics Division. The aim of the seminar is to stimulate and extend best practices in management and human relations in developing national statistical systems, in particular issues related to leadership and management of NSSs. The seminar serves as a forum for the heads of NSOs, to informally exchange experiences, views and learn from each others on transforming NSOs from agencies producing “only numbers” to a knowledge-intensive organisation.

The Institute conducts a special *course/workshop on Fundamental Principles and Statistical Quality Management* for deputy heads and middle-level managers of NSOs, who develop plans, set goals and deadlines, develop procedures to improve the quality of statistical services; and who direct activities with the support of heads of NSOs and their staffs.

VII. Conclusion

SIAP has played a seminal role in development of official statistics in the region. Its training courses have helped the NSOs in developing their human resources as well as shaping their statistical systems. But, in the face of the growing demand for official statistical information, the efforts of SIAP alone would fall short of meeting the training needs of the region.

Some of the countries in the region have established training institutions for their official statisticians. Besides SIAP, there are international, regional and sub-regional institutions that also provide statistical training apart from carrying out their mandated tasks. The only effective way of meeting the training needs is a purposeful coordination of all the training activities intended for the official statisticians of the region and a matching utilisation of training services provided.

The responsibility of training its official statisticians lies primarily with the member States. For optimum utilisation of the available training services, member States have to adopt a comprehensive approach of identifying the suitable training programmes, including those of its own training institute(s), and selecting the right candidates for participating in the courses, particularly in those offered by international organisations.

International organizations can play only a supplementary role in statistical capacity building of the member States. But to make significant contribution with the limited resources, the international organizations need to work hand in hand with the national statistical institutions to ensure that the trainings they offer conform to the needs of the member States and be consistent with their national strategies for developing statistical capacity.

SIAP, in its strategic plan, has recognised the necessity of coordination between the international institutions in respect of planning and conducting of training programmes with a view to developing sustainable statistical capability in each member States. Towards this end, the international organisations have to share the tasks of providing training on different areas and development-levels of official statistics. While SIAP would continue to provide the foundational training on official statistics and

their application on emerging issues, other international organisations might focus on issues relating to recently-developed standards or specialised topics. SIAP, being the training arm of ESCAP and the region's leading institute for training in official statistics, is naturally expected to assume the role of main coordinator of statistical training programmes in the region.

Annex Table1.**Number of training courses conducted since 1970 by categories of training**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| TMA courses | 195 |
| SIAP-JICA | 106 |
| Others | 89 |
| Outreach Programme | 352 |
| Country courses | 240 |
| Regional/Sub-regional courses | 112 |
| Distance-learning Training Course | 11 |

Annex Table 2.
Number of TMA-based courses since 1970 by course title

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| SIAP-JICA TMA-based courses | | |
| | 10- month training courses on general Statistics | 5 |
| | 6-month Training Courses on Fundamental of Official Statistics | 35 |
| | 2 Month Training Courses on ICT for Official Statistics | 31 |
| | Analysis and Interpretation of Official Statistics | 20 |
| | Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries | 10 |
| | Practical Statistics for the Kingdom of Cambodia | 5 |
| | Total | 106 |
| Research-based Training Programme | | |
| | Advance Course | 29 |
| | Research Fellow | 8 |
| | Research-Based Training Programme | 10 |
| | Total | 47 |
| Others | | |
| | Short term Courses (Population Census Data Analysis, Genderizing Population and Housing Census, Poverty Analysis, Economic and Industrial Development) | 9 |
| | Individual Training (Data Analysis And National Accounts) | 5 |
| | Sample Design for Household and Establishment Surveys | 3 |
| | Automatic Data Processing Course | 24 |
| | Human Development Indicators | 1 |
| | Total | 42 |
| | Grand Total | 195 |

Annex Table 3.**Number of regional/subregional courses conducted since 1970 by main theme**

| Main theme | 1970 - Nov2010 | Apr2005- Nov2010 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Statistics for MDG Indicators | 21 | 20 |
| Poverty Measurements/ Statistics | 21 | 6 |
| Population Census & Demographic Statistics | 12 | 4 |
| Disability and Health Statistics | 4 | 2 |
| Gender Statistics | 6 | |
| Social and Economic Developmental Programmes | 3 | |
| National Human Development Indicators | 26 | |
| Other Social Statistics | 4 | 2 |
| National Accounts | 38 | 12 |
| ICP & Price Statistics | 4 | 3 |
| Sectoral Statistics | 17 | 2 |
| Environment Statistics | 3 | 1 |
| Informal Sector | 3 | 1 |
| Other Economic Statistics | 4 | |
| Survey Methodology | 48 | 7 |
| Basic Statistics | 39 | 6 |
| Research-based Country Training Course (RbTC) | 8 | 6 |
| Statistical Quality Management / Other Statistical Management | 8 | 4 |
| Computer Software | 43 | 3 |
| Data Processing & Dissemination | 24 | 4 |
| Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical office in Asia and the Pacific | 9 | 6 |
| Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific | 4 | 2 |
| Others | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 352 | 93 |

Annex Table 4.
Number of regional/subregional courses conducted in collaboration with
Country Partner Institutes, April 2005- November 2010

| Country Partner Institute | Total |
|---|-------|
| China: National Bureau of Statistics | 4 |
| Hong Kong, China: Census and Statistics Department | 3 |
| India: Central Statistical Organisation | 2 |
| Indonesia: BPS- Statistics Indonesia | 5 |
| Islamic Republic of Iran: Statistical Centre of Iran | 7 |
| Macao, China: Statistics and Census Service | 1 |
| Malaysia: Department of Statistics Malaysia | 2 |
| Philippines: Statistical Research and Training Center | 6 |
| Republic of Korea: Statistics Korea | 10 |
| Thailand: National Statistical Office | 7 |

Annex Table 5.
Number of Participants by country and category of training since 1970

As of October 2010

| Country/Area | Total | Tokyo Based Programme | Outreach Programme | Distance-learning Programme |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total (127) | 12337 | 3019 | 9024 | 294 |
| ESCAP Region (58) | 12066 | 2801 | 9001 | 264 |
| Afghanistan | 134 | 43 | 91 | |
| Armenia | 47 | 13 | 34 | |
| American Samoa | 9 | | 9 | |
| Australia | 21 | 2 | 19 | |
| Azerbaijan | 25 | 15 | 10 | |
| Bangladesh | 438 | 147 | 253 | 38 |
| Bhutan | 210 | 51 | 159 | |
| Brunei Darussalam | 197 | 14 | 183 | |
| Cambodia | 376 | 78 | 286 | 12 |
| China | 703 | 123 | 577 | 3 |
| Cook Islands | 85 | 26 | 59 | |
| DPR Korea | 78 | | 78 | |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 67 | 22 | 45 | |
| Fiji | 218 | 62 | 156 | |
| Georgia | 21 | 10 | 11 | |
| Guam | 35 | | 35 | |
| Hong Kong, China | 218 | 81 | 137 | |
| India | 346 | 150 | 169 | 27 |
| Indonesia | 492 | 171 | 321 | |
| Iran(Islamic Republic of) | 386 | 91 | 285 | 10 |
| Japan | 82 | 49 | 33 | |
| Kazakhstan | 33 | 22 | 11 | |
| Kiribati | 138 | 22 | 116 | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 26 | 13 | 13 | |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 398 | 60 | 291 | 47 |
| Macao, China | 126 | 6 | 120 | |
| Malaysia | 522 | 119 | 403 | |
| Maldives | 429 | 56 | 373 | |
| Marshall Islands | 85 | 11 | 74 | |
| Mongolia | 466 | 56 | 379 | 31 |

| Country/Area | Total | Tokyo Based Programme | Outreach Programme | Distance-learning Programme |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Myanmar | 408 | 80 | 328 | |
| Nauru | 6 | 4 | 2 | |
| Nepal | 636 | 98 | 528 | 10 |
| New Caledonia | 26 | | 26 | |
| New Zealand | 11 | | 11 | |
| Niue | 43 | 7 | 36 | |
| Northern Mariana Islands | 2 | | 2 | |
| Pakistan | 522 | 126 | 387 | |
| Palau | 35 | 4 | 31 | |
| Papua New Guinea | 280 | 63 | 217 | |
| Philippines | 686 | 165 | 508 | 13 |
| Republic of Korea | 337 | 98 | 239 | |
| Russian Federation | 8 | 1 | 7 | |
| Samoa | 132 | 54 | 78 | |
| Singapore | 86 | 47 | 39 | |
| Solomon Islands | 92 | 17 | 75 | |
| Sri Lanka | 705 | 151 | 540 | 14 |
| Tajikistan | 69 | 23 | 46 | 0 |
| Thailand | 734 | 161 | 542 | 31 |
| Timor –Leste | 14 | 4 | 10 | |
| Tonga | 106 | 36 | 70 | |
| Trust Territories of The Pacific Islands | 39 | 6 | 33 | |
| Turkey | 23 | 12 | 11 | |
| Turkmenistan | 8 | 6 | 2 | |
| Tuvalu | 44 | 10 | 34 | |
| Uzbekistan | 27 | 20 | 5 | 2 |
| Vanuatu | 85 | 19 | 65 | 1 |
| Viet Nam | 491 | 76 | 399 | 16 |
| Non- ESCAP countries (69) | 271 | 218 | 23 | 30 |