



**Comment on paper 5(a) The report of the network for the coordination of
Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (E/SCAP/CST(4)/12)**

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New Zealand is a member country of the network.

Statistics NZ supports the development of a coordinated approach to determining and meeting statistical training needs of the Asia Pacific region. In the 2015/16 financial year, we plan to offer an e-learning course in Economics for Non-Economists to the UNSIAP portal for e-learning.

Within resource constraints, we endeavour to support coordinated activity in this area, with a particular focus on assisting smaller Pacific NSOs.

We note the value of donor organisation support in this area, and also note the importance of NSOs independence in making decisions regarding the prioritisation of their statistical outputs. There are ever increasing demands for NSOs to meet international reporting standards and priorities. It is vital that we recognise the burden on small NSOs and support their independent voice as they prioritise those activities of most use to them.

As an example of demand driven training, Statistics NZ operates training programmes on official statistics that cater for both national and foreign clients in statistical capability building. The Statistics NZ Certificate in Official Statistics (COS) course, being NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved, is internationally portable and provides a mechanism to address issues around statistical information and its use. The course is targeted primarily towards the "users" rather than the "producers" of statistics. The COS takes a training rather than academic approach to skill building and is offered each year to an audience across government agencies.

As a result of requests, Statistics NZ is offering the certificate programme to Samoa, Tokelau, the Cook Islands, and Vanuatu.

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