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Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of
the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP
regional institutions: Statistics**

Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report reviews the implementation status of the work plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in 2010 and its administrative and financial status as well as the work plan for 2011.

In 2010, the Institute contributed to the expected accomplishments of the Statistics subprogramme in developing statistical capability in member States and facilitated networking among statisticians within and beyond the region. A total of 443 participants from 55 countries improved their knowledge and skills in three key areas: (a) promoting and generating quality and reliable data to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; (b) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA); and (c) processing, analysing and disseminating data. In 2010, the Institute celebrated its fortieth anniversary of assisting developing countries in building capability in official statistics. Since SIAP launched its first training programme in 1970, the impact of its training has been felt in 127 countries around the world. The anniversary celebration prompted the Institute to take stock of its achievements and envisage its future role, particularly in light of increasing demands for official statistics to better support evidence-based policy and decision-making.

In the reporting period, SIAP continued to reap significant benefits from being located in Japan. The Government of Japan provided the bulk of cash and in kind contributions, including administrative and infrastructure support and expertise. JAXA collaborated with the Institute in conducting an experimental distance training using the communication satellite WINDS.

At its sixth session, the Governing Council endorsed the work plan for 2011. To increase the responsiveness to diverse training needs of members and associate members and strengthen the financial basis of SIAP, the Council recommended that the Institute continue its partnerships and other collaborations with national statistical offices, United Nations agencies, international organizations, including national and regional training institutes, and requested the support of member States.

The Council asked the Institute to update the current resource mobilization plan and implement it in line with the strategic plan of SIAP for the academic years 2010-2014, and encouraged the mobilization of financial resources from diverse sources.

The Council requested that the Director of SIAP prepare a management response to the recommendations contained in the 2010 expert opinion paper on SIAP for its consideration in February 2011.

Contents

I.	Introduction	2
II.	Results achieved and outcomes during the reporting period.....	2
III.	Work plan for academic year 2011	6
IV.	Administrative and financial issues.....	7
V.	Issues for consideration by the Commission.....	9

Annexes

I:	List of activities completed in 2010	10
II:	Number of participants that completed training courses in 2010.....	12
III:	Work plan for the academic year 2011	13
IV:	Contributions in 2010.....	14
V:	Statement of accounts	15
VI:	Report of the Governing Council on its sixth session	16

I. Introduction

1. The present report reviews the implementation of the work plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in 2010 and its administrative and financial status as well as the work plan for 2011.

II. Results achieved and outcomes during the reporting period

2. The Institute has adopted a results-based management approach to planning, budgeting, monitoring and performance assessment. The present report is a component of the system and reflects the efforts of SIAP to continuously monitor and improve its performance with regard to addressing training needs in Asia and the Pacific.

3. During the reporting period, the Institute completed the five-year expanded work programme for the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2010, and commenced implementation of its first strategic plan for the next five-year period. The strategic plan sets out the five-year long-term work plan for the academic years 2010–2014, which was endorsed by the Governing Council at its fifth session, in November 2009, and supported by

the Commission at its sixty-sixth session in May 2010.¹ The long-term work plan has been harmonized with ESCAP subprogramme 7, Statistics, for the biennium 2010-2011.²

4. As a result of the systematic training delivered in the past five years, government officials/statisticians who participated in SIAP training programmes have been successfully contributing towards improvements in official statistics in their respective countries. During this period, 2,636 participants, an increase of 37 per cent from the 1,931 participants in the previous five-year period, from 94 countries have improved their knowledge and skills in important aspects of official statistics in support of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

5. The Institute was able to achieve the following results in 2010:

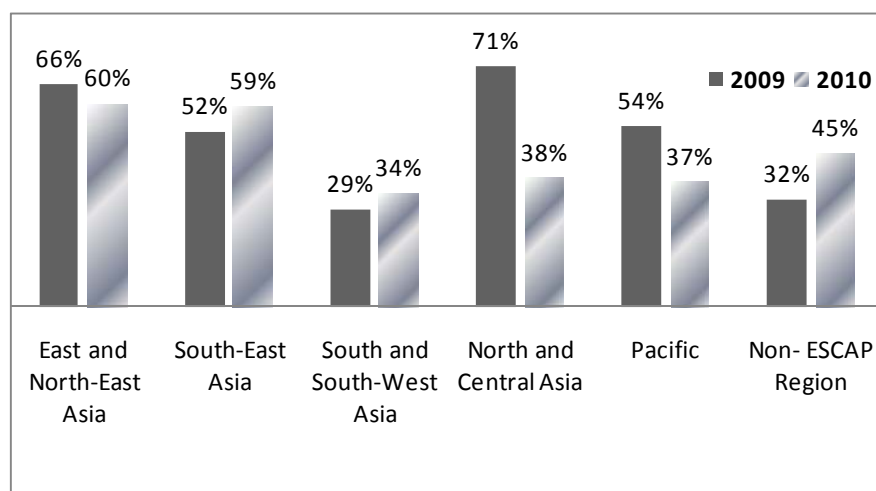
(a) *Improved the knowledge and skills of 443 government officials/statisticians from 55 developing countries:*

- (i) Participants have acknowledged that the expertise acquired and experiences gained from SIAP training programmes have proven to be very useful. The programmes focused on developing the skills and improving the knowledge of trainees on internationally agreed standards, methods and frameworks for statistical activities in the following areas:
 - Promoting and generating quality and reliable data to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals;
 - Implementing the 1993/2008 System of National Accounts (SNA);
 - Processing, analysing and disseminating data;
- (ii) The Institute conducted 21 training courses, workshops and seminars, including four Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based SIAP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) courses, four TMA-based short-term courses, eight outreach courses, four distance training courses and the phase I of the research-based course. In addition, a management seminar was conducted under the outreach programme;
- (iii) Of the total number of participants, 93 per cent came from 46 ESCAP members, while the remaining 7 per cent, or 33 trainees, originated from nine non-ESCAP countries;
- (iv) A total of 47 per cent of participants during the reporting period were women. However, the percentage of female participants varied from subregion to subregion (see figure);

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 19* (E/2010/39-E/ESCAP/66/27), para. 154.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/63/6/Rev.1), Chap. V, Programme 15, Subprogramme 7.

Figure
Subregional distribution of female participants
 (Percentage)



- (v) The Institute continued to pay special attention to building the statistical capability of least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries as well as Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) countries. During the reporting period, 143 participants, or 32 per cent of all participants in the training courses, were from these countries;

(b) *Improved remotely guided learning:* SIAP-JICA continued its distance training for officials in the national statistical offices during the reporting year, with participants coming from Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. In addition, SIAP, with strong support of the Government of Japan, conducted an experimental distance training for statisticians from the national statistical office of Thailand using the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)³ high-speed communication satellite, Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS). The training courses were very well received and participants confirmed that distance training of a short duration complemented the TMA-based SIAP-JICA courses;

(c) *Increased multiplier effect of SIAP training:* Many former SIAP training participants have conducted training in their home offices to impart their knowledge and skills to colleagues. In the reporting period, some of these former participants improved their training capability by delivering lectures/practical training at SIAP training courses on selected topics under the supervision of SIAP faculty members;

(d) *Improved skills of managers of national statistical offices:* Feedback from senior managers who participated in the ninth management seminar for heads of national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific held during the reporting year indicated that a majority of them had acquired

³ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is an independent administrative institution or an affiliated governmental agency of Japan which explores space development and utilization. JAXA has signed an agreement with ESCAP on cooperation in the field of disaster prevention by using the JAXA satellite.

substantive knowledge on important and emerging issues relevant for building the necessary institutional capacity and strengthening their management skills. The management seminar was organized in collaboration with the Statistics Division of ESCAP, the Asia-Pacific Regional Office and Headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Statistics Division and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan;

- (e) *Improved coordination of statistical training in the region:*
 - (i) SIAP strengthened its partnerships with national statistical offices, training institutes in member States, and United Nations agencies and international organizations, enabling the Institute to respond more effectively to the diverse capacity-building needs of member States and to create a platform for the coordination of training activities in the region as supported by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its second session, in December 2010;
 - (ii) In line with the ESCAP-wide programmatic approach to addressing the development priorities of member States, SIAP and the Statistics Division of ESCAP prepared an integrated programme framework for 2011–2013, ensuring a strong degree of complementarity between the roles of the Institute and the Statistics Division of ESCAP in building statistical capability in Asia and the Pacific, with the aim of enhancing the programme's impact;
- (f) *Benefits derived from the location of SIAP in Japan:*
 - (i) During the reporting period, the Government of Japan provided the bulk of the overall cash and in kind contributions to SIAP, including administrative and infrastructure support and expertise. JICA provided 73 fellowships during the academic year 2010, up from 58 during the previous academic year. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan provided an excellent training environment for participants and SIAP staff. The computer system, including the local area network (LAN), of SIAP, was upgraded and expanded with higher-capacity hardware and new versions of software packages that are commonly used by national statistical offices;
 - (ii) The involvement of resource persons from the Statistics Bureau of Japan and other agencies of the host Government as well as institutions and universities in Japan enriched the TMA-based SIAP-JICA courses. Study tours and visits to different sections of the Bureau and prefectural offices provided the participants with the valuable opportunity to experience the application of advanced technology in the management of statistical activities;
- (g) *Fortieth anniversary of SIAP:*
 - (i) SIAP celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a series of events. The events were organized with the aim to boost the visibility of the Institute in order to generate strong support (including

financial contributions) from member States and partner agencies;

- (ii) The fortieth anniversary celebration and accompanying events were a success based on the number of contributions received from the partners of SIAP. The host Government made the greatest contributions at every stage, from logistics to substance.

III. Work plan for academic year 2011

6. The proposed work plan for the academic year 2011⁴ (see annex III) was developed within the context of the proposed five-year long-term work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010–2014, and based on the ESCAP strategic framework for 2010–2011. The work plan was endorsed by the Governing Council at its sixth session, held in December 2010 (see annex VI).

7. The plan is aimed at realizing the outcome “strengthened capability of Asia-Pacific developing countries to meet statistical requirements for arriving at solutions in order to further economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability” (see STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/6/Rev.1) and contributing towards expected accomplishment (d) “Strengthened capacity of national statistical offices in the ESCAP region to produce, disseminate and analyse data in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices” of ESCAP subprogramme 7, Statistics. The following section describes the long-term work plan from which the work plan for the academic year 2011 was derived.

8. The above outcome will be achieved by delivering the following outputs: (a) improved knowledge and skills of government officials/statisticians to produce, manage, and use data supported by appropriate information and communications technology; (b) improved remotely guided learning; (c) increased multiplier effect of SIAP training; (d) improved skills of managers of national statistical offices; and (e) improved coordination of statistical training in the region.

9. To achieve the outcome of the proposed work plan, SIAP hopes that member States will recognize the important role of training in building and strengthening national statistical capability, and, hence, display a continued interest in involving their officials in SIAP trainings as well as demonstrate a strong sense of ownership over the Institute’s training programme. Recognizing the existing capacity gaps and the need to address them urgently, the Committee on Statistics at its second session, in December 2010, confirmed its commitment to improving cooperation in statistical training in the region and called for action by the Commission (see E/ESCAP/67/12).

10. The training framework of the Institute for the academic year 2011 consists of six different types of training programmes: (a) TMA-based courses that include SIAP-JICA training courses and short-term courses to be conducted either by SIAP alone or in collaboration with other organizations; (b) an outreach programme that includes regional/subregional courses and country courses; (c) research-based

⁴ The academic year starts on 1 April and ends on 31 March of the following year.

training programme as a combination of distance learning and TMA-based training; (d) distance training through JICA-Net service and e-learning in collaboration with JAXA; (e) a programme for managers of national statistical offices; and (f) forging partnerships in statistical training.

11. It is envisaged that adequate resources, including cash contributions, would be mobilized to ensure the implementation of the work plan activities to deliver the expected results. The activities of SIAP are projected to be financed from:

(a) Cash contributions: (i) the host Government; (ii) other members and associate members of ESCAP; and (iii) a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-ESCAP project;

(b) In kind contributions: (i) the host Government; (ii) other members and associate members of ESCAP; and (iii) UNFPA, other United Nations agencies and international organizations.

12. SIAP will continue to strengthen its partnership with organizations inside and outside the United Nations system as well as with members and associate members of ESCAP to ensure that the objectives of the proposed work plan are achieved. Many of the Institute's activities are expected to be funded through different capacity-building projects and funding modalities, such as the regular programme of technical cooperation of ESCAP, the United Nations Development Account, joint activities carried out with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other international organizations.

IV. Administrative and financial issues

13. During the reporting period, the Institute dedicated its efforts to respond to training needs in the region while pursuing economical and efficient policies to maximize the use of its resources.

14. Taking into account the fact that the Institute's viability depends largely on cash and in kind contributions from the host Government of Japan, SIAP continued to encourage other members and associate members of ESCAP to make financial contributions on a sustained basis and fund the participation of their officials in the training activities of the Institute. The Institute also continued to encourage other United Nations agencies and international organizations to implement programmes of mutual interests and organize training activities at the SIAP premises. For the reporting year, as of 31 December 2010, the Institute had received \$2,019,561.65 in cash contributions from the host Government and other members and associate members of ESCAP. The detailed cash contributions by member States are presented in annex IV.

15. Support funding from the Government of Japan of \$1,680,500 continues to constitute the bulk of the overall cash contributions. Despite substantial cutbacks in overall official development assistance, the host Government made the same cash contribution in 2010 compared to the year before.

16. In 2010, the Government of Azerbaijan started contributing to SIAP, six countries (India, Indonesia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Viet Nam) increased their annual cash contributions and the Government of

the Russian Federation pledged to become a contributor. The detailed contributions in 2010 are presented in annex IV.

17. Regarding in kind contributions, the Government of the Republic of Korea provided assistance for conducting subregional courses through its national statistical office. The government of Hong Kong, China, did likewise. The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka cooperated with SIAP in conducting country courses. In addition, the Government of India provided a resource person to conduct TMA-based courses and JICA funded a SIAP lecturer to conduct a country course in Tajikistan.

18. During the reporting period, SIAP received in kind contributions from a number of international organizations, including ADB, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),⁵ the International Labour Organization (ILO), ESCAP, IMF, the World Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics. ADB funded a three-week TMA-based regional training workshop and a workshop on reviewing training materials. IMF provided three resource persons for two two-month TMA-based training courses and a management seminar. It also provided funds for participants from eight least developed countries in the management seminar. SIAP, in a joint project with UNFPA/ESCAP, conducted three regional courses and one country course with 75 participants from 26 countries. An expert group meeting conducted at ESCAP headquarters and the participation of four national statistical office officials in a regional seminar were funded through the United Nations Development Account project on the Millennium Development Goals.

19. During the reporting period, 43 resource persons assisted the Institute in carrying out the SIAP training programme. A total of 38 were from the host country and the rest came from other member States, United Nations agencies and other international organizations. To supplement the small SIAP faculty team, 12 consultants were engaged during the reporting period to assist in the TMA-based courses and in the outreach programme. Member States, United Nations agencies and other international organizations provided more resource persons in 2010, enabling SIAP to reduce the use of outside consultants compared with previous years.

20. The increase in self-funded participation in SIAP training courses was another important achievement during the reporting period. A total of 133 government officials participated in the training courses funded by their countries.

21. Total expenditure of the Institute in 2010 (as of 31 December 2010) amounted to \$2,457,485.31. At the fifth session of the Governing Council, the Director promised that SIAP would do its utmost to keep the expected budget deficit as small as possible by taking cost-savings steps. However, movements in exchange rates had a significant impact on the Institute's operational costs during 2010 with the appreciation of the Japanese yen against the United States dollar as well as the depreciation of the dollar

⁵ The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE).

against other currencies contributing substantially to the overall increase in the budget shortfall, particularly with regard to staff costs.

V. Issues for consideration by the Commission

22. Bearing in mind the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics at its second session and the Governing Council of SIAP at its sixth session, the Commission may wish to provide guidance and recommendations on the initiatives and strategies being pursued to meet the diverse requirements in the region with regard to institutionalizing an effective system of building training capability at the country level.

23. The Commission may also wish to discuss and provide its views on the financial and administrative matters relating to the Institute, in particular the following:

(a) In reference to its resolution 65/2, encouraging members and associate members to make/increase cash contributions to SIAP;

(b) Making/increasing in-kind contributions from members and associate members and international organizations, including co-funding of training activities, and the provision of resource persons;

(c) Promoting self-funded participation in SIAP training programmes and encouraging country offices of United Nations agencies and international organizations to fund government officials to attend SIAP training courses;

(d) Encouraging United Nations agencies and international organizations to make voluntary cash contributions and to cooperate with SIAP in implementing projects of mutual interests;

(e) Providing direction on formulating a sound financial strategy and a resource mobilization plan to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of the Institute.

Annex I

List of activities completed in 2010

Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses

SIAP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) training courses

- ✧ Six-month Group Training Course in Modules on Fundamental Official Statistics, 5 October 2009–19 March
- ✧ Two-month Group Training Course in Application of Information Management and Related ICT for Official Statistics, 10 May–9 July
- ✧ Two-month Group Training Course in Analysis, Interpretation and Use of Official Statistics, 20 July–17 September
- ✧ Two-month Area-focused Training Course in Integrated Economic Statistics, including the System of National Accounts, for Central Asian Countries, 26 July–24 September

Short-term TMA-based training courses

- ✧ ADB/SIAP Training Workshop on Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics, 5–23 April
- ✧ Regional Training Course on Genderizing Population and Housing Census, 12–16 July
- ✧ Regional Training Course/Workshop on Pre-Census Communications and Data Dissemination Strategies, 12–15 October
- ✧ Regional Training Course/Workshop on Population Census Data Analysis Using REDATAM, 8–12 November

Outreach programme

- ✧ Country Course on Principles of Statistical Database, 30 January–3 February in Tehran
- ✧ Country Course on National Accounts, 17–18 May in Daejeon, Republic of Korea
- ✧ Follow-up Seminar on Population Census of Tajikistan, 17–23 June in Dushanbe
- ✧ Expert Group Meeting on Priorities, Strategies and Designs for Statistical Training on Indicators for Monitoring Millennium Development Goals Progress, 22–24 June in Bangkok
- ✧ ESCAP Subregional Training/Workshop on Dissemination and Communication of Millennium Development Goals Statistics for Effective Use in Policy and Decision-making, 18–20 October in Daejeon, Republic of Korea
- ✧ Subregional Course on Measuring and Improving Survey Quality, 18–22 October, in Hong Kong, China
- ✧ Country Course on Pre-Census Communications and Data Dissemination Strategies, 6–8 December in Colombo

Seminars/workshops for managers

- ✧ Ninth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, 31 August–2 September in Tokyo

Distance training

- ✧ SIAP-JICA Distance-learning Training Course on Introduction to STATA Software, 19 April
- ✧ SIAP-JICA Distance-learning Training Course on Introduction to System of National Accounts, 7 July

- ✧ SIAP-JICA Distance-learning Training Course on Introduction to STATA Software, 25 October
- ✧ SIAP/JAXA E-learning Training on Survey Methodology for the National Statistical Office of Thailand, 5 October
- ✧ First Research-based Regional Course (Phase I), 4 October–26 November

Annex II

Number of participants that completed training courses in 2010

Subregional	Total	Male	Female
<i>ESCAP region</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>195</i>
East and North-East Asia	91	36	55
South-East Asia	116	47	69
South and South-West Asia	134	89	45
North and Central Asia	42	26	16
Pacific	27	17	10
<i>Non-ESCAP region</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>15</i>
Total	443	233	210
Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)			
ESCAP region	125	67	58
East and North-East Asia	8	1	7
South-East Asia	36	14	22
South and South-West Asia	43	32	11
North and Central Asia	16	8	8
Pacific	22	12	10
Non-ESCAP region	14	10	4
Sub-total	139	77	62
Outreach programme			
ESCAP region	204	113	91
East and North-East Asia	72	34	38
South-East Asia	36	20	16
South and South-West Asia	67	38	29
North and Central Asia	24	16	8
Pacific	5	5	0
Non-ESCAP region	3	2	1
Sub-total	207	115	92
Distance-learning training			
ESCAP region	81	35	46
East and North-East Asia	11	1	10
South-East Asia	44	13	31
South and South-West Asia	24	19	5
North and Central Asia	2	2	0
Pacific	0	0	0
Non-ESCAP region	16	6	10
Sub-total	97	41	56
Total	443	233	210

Since its inception in 1970, SIAP has trained nearly 12,100 government officials/statisticians from 124 developing countries, including 58 countries in the ESCAP region, and contributed towards the expected accomplishments of ESCAP under subprogramme 7, Statistics.

Annex III

Work plan for the academic year 2011

Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses

SIAP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) TMA-based training courses

- ✧ Four-month group training course in production and development of official statistics in support of national development including the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- ✧ Two-month group training course in the application of information management and related information and communications technology for official statistics
- ✧ Two-month group training course in analysis, interpretation and use of official statistics
- ✧ Two-month area-focused training course in integrated economic statistics, including the System of National Accounts (SNA) for Central Asian countries

Short-term TMA-based training courses

- ✧ Regional training course on gender-focused population and housing census data analysis
- ✧ Regional training course/workshop on dissemination and use of population and housing census results with gender concern
- ✧ Second research-based regional course
- ✧ International Monetary Fund (IMF)/SIAP Workshop for SNA and International Comparison Programme (ICP)
- ✧ Workshop on meeting the statistical information needs of policy analysis
- ✧ A 3 to 5 day workshop on new areas in which national statistical offices need to develop skills

Outreach programme

- ✧ Subregional training courses on Millennium Development Goals-focused population and housing census data analysis
- ✧ Workshop on forging partnerships in statistical training in Asia and the Pacific
- ✧ Tenth management seminar for the heads of national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific
- ✧ Subregional workshops to build the capacity of data producers and users to produce/utilize Millennium Development Goals-related indicators
- ✧ Subregional workshops on the 2008 SNA
- ✧ Country training workshop on 2008 SNA
- ✧ Subregional workshop on Millennium Development Goals-focused population and housing census data analysis in Mongolia
- ✧ Subregional workshop on population and housing census data dissemination and its utilization in Fiji
- ✧ Subregional workshop on gender-focused population and housing census data analysis in Bangladesh

Distance training

- ✧ SIAP/JAXA E-learning training on survey methodology for the National Statistical Office of Mongolia
- ✧ SIAP-JICA distance-learning training courses

Annex IV

Contributions in 2010

Institutional support (joint contribution):

Funds received as of 31 December 2010

(United States dollars)

Country/Area	Amount
Azerbaijan	2 000.00
Bhutan	2,000.00 ^a
Brunei Darussalam	15 000.00
China	40 000.00
Fiji	4 982.00
India	25 000.00
Indonesia	20 000.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12 135.10 ^b
Japan	1 680 500.00
Macao, China	18 000.00
Malaysia	20 000.00
Mongolia	15 000.00 ^c
Myanmar	1 910.14 ^d
Pakistan	14 848.76 ^e
Philippines	29 753.65 ^f
Republic of Korea	49 982.00
Samoa	1 950.00 ^g
Singapore	15 000.00
Sri Lanka	10 000.00
Thailand	20 000.00
Tonga	1 500.00
Turkey	15 000.00
Viet Nam	5 000.00
Total	2 019 561.65

^a Bhutan paid \$2,000 in 2010, representing annual contributions for 2006 and 2010.

^b Islamic Republic of Iran paid \$12,135.10 in 2010, representing annual contribution for 2006.

^c Mongolia paid \$15,000 in 2010, representing annual contributions for 2010 (\$10,000) and balance payment of annual contribution for 2008 (\$5,000).

^d Myanmar paid \$1,910.14 in 2010, representing annual contributions for 2007 (\$948.05) and 2008 (\$962.09).

^e Pakistan paid \$14,848.76 in 2010, representing annual contribution for 2009.

^f Philippines paid \$29,753.65 in 2010, representing annual contributions for 2009 (\$13,653.65) and 2010 (\$16,100).

^g Samoa paid \$1,950 in 2010, representing annual contributions for 2010 (\$975) and 2011 (\$975).

Annex V

Statement of accounts

Institutional support as of 31 December 2010 (United States dollars)

Donor	Balance carried over from 31 Dec. 2009	Contributions (2010)	Expenditure (2010)	Interest earned (2010)	Account transfers ^a	Balance at 31 Dec 2010
Institutional Support - Joint Contribution	3 359 979.12	2 019 61.65	2 457 485.31	61 805.77	0.00	2 983 861.23
UNFPA Project ^b	0.00	234 887.50	225 866.35	0.00	12 313.40	21 334.55
Total	3 359 979.12	2 254 449.15	2 683 351.66	61 805.77	12 313.40	3 005 195.78

^a Account transfers refer to the 2009 balance, which is no longer valid. It is included for biennial reporting purposes only.

^b *Note:* Balances under the UNFPA project cannot be carried forward to the following year.

Annex VI

Report of the Governing Council on its sixth session

I. Matters arising from the fifth session of the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council had before it the document STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/3. The document, which presented the actions taken by SIAP in connection with the matters arising from the fifth session of the Governing Council included, among others, discussions on: (a) strategies for strengthening the arrangements for increasing cash and in kind contributions; (b) steps to enhance distance training and provide e-training resources; (c) conducting joint training activities with country partner institutions and international organizations; and (d) progress in implementing the skills-based training approach to ensure that the training programmes are aligned to support the training needs of members and associate members.

2. Representatives of the following Council members made statements: Australia; Japan; and Republic of Korea.

3. To increase the effectiveness of SIAP training as well as the accountability of participating national statistical offices, one member stressed the need to strengthen the existing evaluation system of course participants and to send their performance records to the respective heads of the national statistical offices.

4. The Governing Council expressed concern about the current financial situation of the Institute stemming from the continued appreciation of the Japanese yen against the United States dollar as well as the depreciation of the dollar against other currencies during the preceding 27 months. That had resulted in a significant increase in the budget shortfall in spite of steps taken by the Institute to balance expenditure with income/cash contributions during the past years.

5. Several members of the Council noted that the implementation status of the core skills framework in SIAP activities should be encouraged and stressed the need to take further steps to strengthen the effective use of the framework.

II. Review of the progress in the implementation of the Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific

6. The Council had before it document STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/4, which had been prepared in accordance with Commission resolution 65/2 to provide a review of the initiatives undertaken by the Institute and of the progress made in strengthening financial support to SIAP with the objective of raising the sense of ownership by member States.

7. Representatives of the following Council members and observers made statements: Australia; Japan; India; Kazakhstan; Mongolia; Russian

Federation; Samoa; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and International Labour Organization (ILO).

8. The Council acknowledged that the Government of Japan was doing its best to maintain its cash contribution to SIAP at the current level despite the difficult financial situation. Reflecting on the Institute's deficit with the bulk of the cash contributions (87.5 per cent) coming from the Government of Japan, the Council urged other members and associate members to increase their cash contributions.

9. The Council was informed that the following members and associate members had increased their annual contributions to SIAP: India; Indonesia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; and Turkey.

10. The representative of Japan requested that members and associate members of ESCAP and international organizations make further efforts to strengthen the financial support of SIAP to ensure the stability of its operations.

11. One delegation expressed concern about the financial stability of SIAP. Despite continuing efforts to increase cash contributions and mobilize resources to supplement institutional funds, he stressed that SIAP had been using accumulated cash reserves to cover the excess of expenditure over the cash revenues for the past several years.

12. One delegation suggested that the Council might make cash contributions from member States obligatory, while noting that several member States had been receiving assistance from SIAP on a sustainable basis but had not made any contributions.

13. The representatives of Kazakhstan and Mongolia informed the Council that their respective Governments were considering the possibility of contributing up to \$10,000 in 2011 while the representative of the Russian Federation stated that his Government was considering the possibility of supporting SIAP activities in 2011.

14. The Council commented that the content of the training provided by SIAP could be enriched to meet the needs of national statistical systems and not only national statistical offices. That might also lead to the enhancement of the sense of ownership of SIAP by members and associate members and, thus, increase the financial resources of the Institute.

15. One Council member suggested that arrangements be explored for allocating the Institute's administrative overhead costs associated with conducting training activities to other agencies as a way to increase financial resources.

16. The Council suggested that SIAP further strengthen the efforts to diversify its funding basis, such as by reinforcing partnership collaborations with donor governments, United Nations agencies and international organizations, including country offices of international organizations, increasing the number of self-funded individual participants, and other forms of mobilizing resources as mentioned in the strategic plan of the Institute for academic years 2010–2014 (see E/ESCAP/CST/INF/6).

17. The Council urged the Director to formulate a financial plan and present it to the Council for consideration during its next meeting, which

was proposed to be held in February 2011 alongside the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

18. Concerning the fortieth anniversary of SIAP, the Council was informed that the celebratory events had helped increase knowledge about and the visibility of SIAP. The celebration of the fortieth anniversary had also provided an occasion for the Institute to envisage its future role, particularly in the light of the increasing demand for official statistics for evidence-based decision-making. The Governing Council expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan, other members and associate members, the ESCAP secretariat, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations for their support in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of SIAP.

III. Report of the Director

19. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Director of SIAP (STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/5/Rev.1). The Director reported the key results achieved, new initiatives implemented, a summary of SIAP activities in the reporting period, and institutional matters.

20. The Director pointed out the Institute's efforts to monitor and improve its performance on a continuous basis to address the demand for training in Asia and the Pacific. The report stated that the training programmes were demand-driven and linked to national and international capacity-building initiatives.

21. The Governing Council noted that SIAP had: (a) started to use the core skills framework for designing and implementing training programmes; (b) strengthened its training programmes as an integral component of the ESCAP statistics subprogramme; and (c) intensified collaboration with other United Nations agencies and international organizations.

22. The Director reported that SIAP had revised its training programme and initiated several new courses to address the capability building needs of government officials/statisticians to produce and disseminate data to monitor achievements with regard to the Millennium Development Goals in a comprehensive manner. This would ensure access to data and build the statistical skills of producers/users in line ministries and civil society. Examples of the new courses included the following: the four-month Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based SIAP-Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) group training course on the production and development of official statistics in support of national development including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, for junior-level statisticians; the three-week joint Asian Development Bank (ADB)-SIAP workshop for middle-level statisticians; a subregional training/workshop on the dissemination and communication of Millennium Development Goals statistics for effective use in policy and decision-making, organized jointly with Statistics Korea, the Statistics Division and the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia, and attended by producers and users of statistics in civil society organizations; and the four SIAP-United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)-Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication training courses for statisticians involved in population and housing census activities.

23. The report also provided an overview of the administrative and financial status of the Institute in 2010 (as of 31 October 2010), with details of cash contributions from member States, including the host country, as well as statements of expenditure and account balances.

24. Representatives of the following Council members and observers made statements: Australia; Japan; India; Nauru; Philippines; ADB; ILO; and UNFPA.

25. The Council noted with appreciation that the computer system, including the local area network (LAN), of SIAP had been upgraded and expanded by the host Government with higher capacity hardware and new versions of software packages that were commonly used by national statistical offices.

26. The representative of Japan recognized the important contributions made by ADB, UNFPA, the IMF, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the United Nations Statistics Division in conducting training courses during the reporting period. One delegation commented that the topics of the two management seminars were very relevant at the country level and expressed interest to hear feedback from participants and participating organizations on the effects that the seminars had had on statistics management at the country level. The delegation further commented that the disaggregated data in Millennium Development Goals that focus on inequality would be a relevant and timely seminar topic. The delegation also noted that the Institute was making an effort to become more results oriented.

27. One Council member welcomed the fact that the number of self-funded and co-funded participations in the training courses had increased and requested SIAP to strengthen its training methods, diversify training contents and make the most use of new information technology (IT) infrastructure in order to best address the training needs of member States.

28. The Governing Council advised SIAP to continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaboration with existing national and regional training institutes. To this end, the Council suggested that in the long run, the Institute should focus on providing training that covers emerging issues related to the strategic development of national statistical systems in the region.

29. The Governing Council acknowledged with appreciation the Government of Japan's continued support to SIAP, comprising a cash contribution of \$1,680,500, an in kind contribution equivalent to \$1,229,085, made through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the provision of 71 fellowships through JICA for the group training courses conducted in Chiba, Japan. The Council also expressed gratitude to the host Government for its generous support in conducting distance training courses through JICA for officials of the national statistical offices of Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Mozambique, Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam and to JAXA for supporting officials of the national statistical office of Thailand.

30. Furthermore, the Governing Council acknowledged with appreciation the contributing members and associate members in the region for their

continuing cash and in kind contributions, through which they had demonstrated their ownership of the Institute's activities. The Council expressed gratitude to the Governments of India, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey for increasing their cash contributions to SIAP.

31. The Council expressed its gratitude to UNFPA for its programme support and funding of four training courses on population and housing census with gender concerns.

32. The Governing Council acknowledged with appreciation the contributions of the following: (a) the Governments of India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand as well as the governments of Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, for hosting and providing organizational support of regional and subregional courses through their respective national statistical offices; (b) the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Central Statistical Organization of India for providing resource support on specific subjects at SIAP training courses and workshops through their experts; and (c) other agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, particularly ADB, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),^a ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, ILO, IMF, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and PARIS21 for collaborating with SIAP in the implementation of its training activities.

IV. Consideration of the work plan of the Institute for the academic year 2011

33. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled "Work plan of the Institute for the academic year 2011" (STAT/SIAP/GC (6)/6/Rev.1). The draft work plan of the Institute for the academic year 2011, which covered the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, was developed within the context of the proposed five-year long-term work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014, taking into account the direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework of ESCAP for 2010-2011 and the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, as endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

34. The Director informed the Council that the work plan had been developed to deliver the outputs as indicated in the two-year work plan for the academic years 2010 and 2011 endorsed by the Council at its fifth session, in 2009, and to contribute to the expected accomplishments of the statistics subprogramme of ESCAP.

35. The Council was also informed that the SIAP-JICA TMA-based courses were to be formalized on the basis of the relevant and applicable laws and regulations of the Government of Japan and in accordance with the Institute's annual budgetary appropriations for Japanese fiscal year 2011. Similarly, the plan for TMA-based short-term courses, the outreach programme and the distance training courses, would be finalized in accordance with the annual budgetary appropriations of SIAP and collaborating organizations for fiscal year 2011.

^a The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE).

36. Representatives of the following Council members and observers made statements: Australia; India; Indonesia; Japan; Philippines; Samoa; Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC); and UNFPA.

37. One Council member noted that both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget needed attention and had to be worked out in detail. In addition, members noted that the proposed work plan reflected the efforts being made to manage the costs by reducing the length of the courses. The member also noted with appreciation that work was being done to incorporate the core skills framework into the programme as well as to frame the curriculum of the training courses. The discussion on this issue also brought out the need to indicate the costs including overheads for each component in order to make better use of existing funds and get sponsors for unfunded elements.

38. One delegation, which represented the Pacific islands, informed the Council that the statistical systems of the Pacific islands were at different levels of statistical development and that some basic training in official statistics was still needed. The delegation stressed, however, that SIAP courses had been very useful for the countries of the Pacific and that they should continue to be offered.

39. One Council member suggested that SIAP should target its programme more effectively. For the countries with training facilities, SIAP should conduct training courses for the “trainers” or on advanced topics in specific areas. For the countries without developed training facilities or with a shortage of trained statistical personnel, the member suggested that SIAP and ESCAP should arrange basic training courses on official statistics.

40. Some delegations of special agencies sought partnerships with SIAP in delivering their mandates.

41. The representative of FAO expressed a desire to collaborate with SIAP in developing the training component for the Asia-Pacific region for the global strategy to improve agricultural statistics, while the representative of ILO expressed an interest in working with SIAP in developing training modules for the compilation of decent work indicators.

42. One delegation informed the Council about the training programmes developed by EUROSTAT and conveyed the desire of EUROSTAT to share the training materials and other resources with SIAP.

43. The delegation of SESRIC informed the Council that it would initiate a partnership with SIAP in statistical capacity-building for mutual member States.

44. Several members of the Council and some delegations of international organizations stressed that it was essential that SIAP collaborate with the training institutes of the national statistical offices, United Nations agencies and other international organizations in developing training materials, sharing resource persons and conducting training courses.

45. The Council endorsed the work plan for the academic year 2011 and advised SIAP to take into consideration the concerns raised relating to the

contents of training, the offers for collaborative training activities with other international agencies, and the mobilization of financial resources for conducting planned training activities.

V. Matters arising from the external evaluation of SIAP

46. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled “Matters arising from the external evaluation of SIAP” (STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/INF/5).

47. One Council member noted that an evaluation was indeed important at this critical stage of the Institute, as a strategic approach was necessary to deal with the recommendations, and to work out a way forward. Thus, the member proposed that training institutes collaborate closely with the donor organizations to enable SIAP to meet the training needs of the region while maintaining financial stability.

48. Several members stressed the need to devote more time to examining the recommendations of the evaluator. The Council agreed to meet informally within a short time, possibly during the session of the United Nations Statistical Commission scheduled to be held in February 2011, after conducting electronic exchanges.

49. The Council requested that the Director of SIAP prepare and submit a management response to the recommendations of the evaluator in 2010 for consideration at its informal meeting proposed to be held alongside the Statistical Commission session in February 2011.

VI. Items of information

A. Review of the draft annual report of the Institute to the Commission

50. The Governing Council had before it the draft annual report of the Institute to the Commission (STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/7).

51. The objective of the report was to enable the Commission to review how SIAP functioned under the guidance of the Governing Council with the financial support of members and associate members, including the host country. The report also aimed to explain how SIAP assisted member States in the region in building their statistical capabilities with collaborative support from the Statistics Division of ESCAP and other regional institutions. The Council reviewed the draft report and advised SIAP to reflect the decisions of the Council in the report and circulate it to the members for comments.

B. Draft manual of the research-based training programme

52. The Governing Council had before it the draft manual of the research-based training programme (STAT/SIAP/GC(6)/INF/4).

53. The Council was informed that the manual intended to assist trainees in their research studies and enhance their capability in undertaking independent research in official statistics and preparing quality statistical reports. The manual had been made available for comments to a wider audience through the SIAP website. It was also being used as a guide for conducting the research-based training course on a trial basis in 2010.

VII. Other matters

54. Representatives of the following Council members and observers made statements: Australia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; and Thailand.

55. One delegation suggested that the Council consider expanding its membership. Some other delegates, opining that it might help increase the sense of ownership by the member States, expressed support for the suggestion.

56. One Council member expressed concern about the proposal, as the motives and the purpose behind it were not very clear. The member said that in most boards, the membership was kept as small as possible in order to be able to make decisions. The member commented that factors designed to ensure effective decision-making and not simply encourage active participation should be taken into account in determining the appropriate size of a board. Another Council member pointed out that only the Commission could make decisions regarding the composition of the Council. Thus, it was agreed that the matter was more properly discussed in the Commission and not the Council.

57. One Council member mentioned that the issue of expanding the Governing Council membership would require time for consideration by all parties concerned.

58. The Council noted the suggestion made by the delegation to consider expanding its membership.

59. The Governing Council agreed to hold its seventh session in Chiba, Japan, in December 2011.

VIII. Adoption of the report

60. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 14 December 2010.

IX. Organization

A. Opening of the session

61. The sixth session of the Governing Council of SIAP was held in Bangkok on 13 and 14 December 2010.

62. The representative of China welcomed all the participants.

63. The opening remarks of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP were delivered by the Director of the Statistics Division of ESCAP. The Executive Secretary welcomed the representatives and expressed deep appreciation to the Governing Council for the invaluable advice and guidance given to SIAP at its fifth session. She described the important role of SIAP, and expressed the hope that the Governing Council's observations and guidance would help SIAP stay relevant, maintain its edge and evolve to meet the continuing and emerging needs of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Executive Secretary expressed gratitude to the host Government for its valuable and generous contributions to SIAP, including

the awarding of fellowships for training courses in Japan through JICA since the establishment of the Institute four decades before. She expressed deep appreciation to the Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan for the substantial financial, administrative and infrastructure support as well as the services of experts for Tokyo-based training courses it had provided to the Institute. The Executive Secretary also highlighted the importance of using the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) high-speed communication satellite, Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS), for SIAP distance training and expressed appreciation for the support of the Ministry in enabling the experimental training in October 2010 of statisticians of the National Statistical Office of Thailand in collaboration with JAXA. She requested that the Government of Japan maintain its support, including cash and in kind contributions at the same level, to enable SIAP to fulfil its mandate in the coming years.

64. The Executive Secretary also expressed appreciation to ESCAP members and associate members for their financial support of SIAP, and stressed the need for them to increase their annual contributions. She valued the collaborations with countries and many other international agencies, especially UNFPA, ADB and IMF, in implementing the Institute's training programmes, and appealed for continuous cooperation and support to implement the proposed programme for the academic year 2011.

65. The Executive Secretary requested that the Governing Council members carefully review the issues placed before the Council for deliberation and provide appropriate guidance and recommendations.

66. The representative of Japan expressed his gratitude to the members and associate members of ESCAP for their participation in the Governing Council and paid tribute to the Director and staff of SIAP for their efforts in implementing the work plan of the Institute during the reporting period.

B. Attendance

67. The session was attended by representatives of eight of the nine newly elected members of the Governing Council: Australia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Republic of Korea; and Thailand.

68. Representatives of the following members and associate members attended the session as observers: Cambodia; Kazakhstan; Mongolia; Nauru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Turkmenistan; Hong Kong, China; and Macao, China.

69. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations participated as observers: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) East and Southeast Asia Regional Office (ESARO), UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office; FAO; ILO; ADB, EUROSTAT; and SESRIC.

C. Election of officers

70. The Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Mr. Ismail bin Yusoff (Malaysia)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Shunsuke Kimura (Japan)

D. Agenda

71. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Matters arising from the fifth session of the Governing Council.
 3. Review of the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific.
 4. Report of the Director:
 - (a) Progress in the implementation of the work plan since the fifth session of the Governing Council;
 - (b) Administrative and financial status.
 5. Consideration of the work plan of the Institute for the academic year 2011.
 6. Matters arising from the external evaluation of SIAP.
 7. Items of information:
 - (a) Review of the draft annual report of the Institute to the Commission;
 - (b) Draft manual for the research-based training programme.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report.
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