



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF  
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE  
REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 AND THE WORK OF THE  
ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS: STATISTICS**

(Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**SUMMARY**

The present report reviews the implementation status of the work plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in 2009 and its administrative and financial status as well as the work plan for 2010.

In 2009, the Institute continued delivering results contributing towards the expected accomplishments of the Statistics subprogramme. The Institute not only helped developing statistical capability and human resources in developing member States, but also continued to facilitate networking among statisticians within and beyond the region and promote South-South cooperation. A total of 585 participants from 48 countries were able to improve their knowledge and skills on specific issues relevant to their respective countries over a wide range of economic, social and demographic statistics that were essential for monitoring internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The key factors that facilitated the smooth implementation by SIAP of all planned activities for 2009 were: (a) the strong support of the host Government, Japan, which continued to provide the bulk of cash contributions, administrative and infrastructure support, and fellowships for all four SIAP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses; (b) the strong support of many other member States: cash and in kind contributions from those member States increased in 2009 compared with their level in 2008; and (c) close collaboration with United Nations agencies and international organizations, which provided the opportunity to combine efforts and address effectively the diverse capability-building needs of developing member States in the region.

At its fifth session, the Governing Council endorsed the long-term work plan of SIAP for the academic years 2010-2014 and the two-year work plan for the academic years 2010-2011, with the assumption that funding and partnership requirements would be met fully. The Council noted that in 2010 SIAP would celebrate its fortieth anniversary and emphasized that that was a moment to reflect on the increasing demand for the services of the Institute and to ensure that it remained relevant and evolved to meet the persistent and emerging needs of member States in the region. The Council members expressed the view that it was imperative to raise more support and strengthen the financial basis of the Institute and, thus, the Council envisaged that member States would strengthen financial support on the basis of Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, which would further raise their sense of ownership over the training programme of SIAP.

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## Introduction

1. The present report reviews the implementation status of the work plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in 2009 and its administrative and financial status as well as the work plan for 2010.

### I. RESULTS ACHIEVED AND OUTCOMES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

2. In 2009, the SIAP training programme focused on developing the skills and improving the knowledge of official statisticians on internationally agreed standards, methods and frameworks for official statistics in the following areas: (a) promoting and generating high-quality and reliable data to monitor the progress of the Millennium Development Goals; (b) implementing the 1993/2008 System of National Accounts (SNA); and (c) processing, analysing and disseminating data. Based on pre- and post-test results and the self-evaluation by participants of their confidence level in the above areas, the achievements were well above the targets set for 2008-2009 in the Institute's capacity-building project.

3. The Institute trained 585 participants from 48 countries through 25 courses/workshops/seminars, including Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based courses, 15 training activities under the outreach programme and 3 distance training courses. The list of activities completed in 2009 is presented in annex I. Females constituted 46 per cent of the total number of participants in the current reporting period, although the gender ratio varied across subregions. The number of participants that completed training courses in 2009 is presented in annex II.

4. The Institute was able to achieve the following results:

(a) *Improved capabilities of national statistical offices to provide better statistical outputs and services.* Participants learned to apply state-of-the-art techniques, methodologies and analytical frameworks in the generation of timely and high-quality data and the provision of statistical services by their respective offices. The feedback received from the member States on the implementation of action plans developed by the trainees indicated that significant contributions had been made by participants using knowledge and professional skills acquired through SIAP training. Members of the Governing Council at its fifth session shared the view that SIAP training had enabled the participants to become more proficient in delivering their services;

(b) *Enhanced ability of senior managers to lead national statistical systems.* In 2009, 33 heads of and senior officials from national statistical offices in 24 member States benefited from the Eighth Management Seminar, which enhanced their capabilities in providing statistics for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) *Collaboration and networking with country partner institutions and international agencies.* Country partner institutions and international agencies had access to better training information and were able to network and exchange knowledge through their involvement in SIAP activities. SIAP organized 25 courses in collaboration with country partner institutions, national statistical offices and international organizations, including United Nations agencies;

(d) *Improved e-learning resources.* Statisticians at large, within and beyond the region, obtained better access to training materials prepared by SIAP. The Institute developed training materials on the System of National Accounts (SNA), survey methodology and many other topics. Training materials were made available through the Institute's e-library (e-training resources) in English on a trial basis.

5. During the reporting period, the Institute revised its training contents to address the diverse capability-building needs, taking into account the levels of participants' knowledge and skills, priorities set by national statistical systems and requirements for implementing international statistical standards by emphasizing the following areas: (a) economic statistics and the 2008 SNA; (b) demographic statistics and the 2010 round of the population census; and (c) policy-relevant data analysis.

6. Practical content was continuously strengthened to meet the changing requirements of national statistical systems. To increase exposure to developed statistical systems, the Institute increased its efforts to provide TMA-based participants some insights into Japanese statistical services and procedures, its new Statistics Law and the directions of reform. In a similar manner, participants in regional/subregional courses/workshops acquired knowledge and awareness of the national statistical system of the host country.

7. All SIAP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) TMA-based course participants were required to develop action plans for post-training activities, which included training colleagues at their home offices using training and skills acquired at SIAP. Systematic feedback reports on the progress made in implementing those action plans were being gradually introduced to serve as indicators to measure training outcomes and to monitor the effectiveness of the SIAP training programme.

8. Sessions on training and presentation techniques were added to SIAP-JICA TMA-based course curricula to provide trainees with skills to impart the acquired knowledge to fellow officials in their respective countries, thereby enhancing the impact of the training provided by SIAP.

9. The Institute is adopting a skills-based (competence-based) training approach to deliver demand-driven and outcome-oriented training programmes, taking into account the needs of the national statistical systems. A core skills framework was developed to be used as a basis for structuring the training programme as well as for measuring the learning outcomes, both expected and achieved. The framework would enable national statistical systems and statisticians in government service to identify the skills needed for their capacity development over a period of several years. The core skills framework is a live framework which will continue to be revised and improved.

10. With the strong technical support of the host Government, using the JICA-Net services of JICA in Tokyo and JICA overseas offices, the distance training programme was made a regular programme in the Institute's portfolio of training modalities.

## **II. WORK PLAN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010**

11. The work plan was developed within the context of the long-term work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014<sup>1</sup> and based on the strategic framework for 2010-2011.

12. The Institute will carry out the work plan to deliver results 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 (see A/64/6 (Sect. 18), table 18.24). The work plan for the academic year 2010 is presented in annex III. The following section describes the long-term work plan from which the work plan for the academic year 2010 was derived.

13. Pursuant to the strategic plan endorsed by the Governing Council at its fourth session and to the direction provided to submit a detailed implementation plan, SIAP prepared a long-term work plan for the academic years 2010-2014. A participatory approach, as well as in-depth situation analysis, has provided a solid foundation for the development of the long-term work plan and it has been harmonized with ESCAP subprogramme 7, Statistics, for the biennium 2010-2011. At its fifth session, the Governing Council endorsed the long-term work plan (see annex VI, paras. 42-60).

14. To better understand the nature of training needs and to deliver an outcome-oriented training programme, SIAP conducted a training needs survey among the national statistical offices of the members and associate members of ESCAP. The results showed that: (a) the demand for statistical training is increasing as more and more countries realize the critical importance of statistical information in formulating and monitoring development policies; (b) the three focus areas (the Millennium Development Goals, SNA and information and communications technology) in the strategic plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014 were identified as high priority areas; and (c) the training programme should have a greater emphasis on the skills (competency) development of government officials, including higher level officials.

15. Strategic aspects identified by SIAP to be employed during the coming five years are: (a) working in partnership with member States in the region as well as United Nations agencies and international organizations; (b) training of trainers; (c) monitoring the effectiveness of SIAP through outcomes; (d) helping senior managers

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<sup>1</sup> The academic year starts on 1 April and ends on 31 March of the following year.

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

16. SIAP will 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 strategic plan are achieved. SIAP will coordinate with members and associate members, the Statistics Division of ESCAP, the United Nations Statistics Division and other partners in reviewing and updating its training programme, organizing joint training activities, including workshops and seminars, and developing training materials.

17. The training framework of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014 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 training programme as a combination of distance learning and TMA-based training; (d) distance training through JICA-Net service and e-learning using the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)<sup>2</sup> high-speed communication satellite, Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS) (negotiation under way); (e) a programme for managers of national statistical offices; and (f) forging partnerships in statistical training.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

18. In response to Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, SIAP and the ESCAP secretariat stepped up efforts to encourage countries to increase or make cash contributions to the Institute by sending letters to national statistical offices and permanent representatives of countries to ESCAP. So far, two countries (Kyrgyzstan and Turkey) have started contributing to SIAP and seven countries/areas (India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; and Tonga) have increased their annual cash contributions to the Institute. The detailed contributions in 2009 are presented in annex IV.

19. The contribution from the Government of Japan continues to constitute the bulk (81 per cent) of the overall cash contributions. In addition, it continued to provide to SIAP in kind contributions (\$1,152,640) in the form of administrative and infrastructural support. The host Government also provided experts as resource persons for conducting TMA-based training courses through the Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards) in the Ministry of International Affairs and Communications. JICA provided 58 fellowships for the TMA-based course participants and collaborated with SIAP in launching a series of distance training courses.

20. Under the expanded training programme, many member States have provided strong support to the Institute through collaboration in organizing regional/subregional courses and country courses. The governments of Australia; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; the Islamic Republic of Iran; Macao, China; the Philippines; the Republic of Korea; and Thailand provided in kind contributions for conducting TMA-based, regional and subregional training courses/seminars through their national statistical offices. In addition, several United Nations agencies and

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<sup>2</sup> The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is an independent administrative institution or an affiliated governmental agency of Japan to explore space development and utilization. JAXA recently made an agreement with ESCAP on cooperation in the field of disaster prevention by using the JAXA satellite.

international organizations—namely the International Labour Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, ESCAP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Statistics Division, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division (CELADE)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank—provided the Institute with resource persons, funding to cover travel costs of participants and SIAP faculty members. A new ESCAP/UNFPA project entitled “Statistical Capacity-building for Undertaking the 2010 Round Population and Housing Census Integrated with Gender Concerns” is being developed. The Institute continues its efforts in collaborating with United Nations agencies and international organizations to acquire additional funding to support some of the Institute’s training costs.

21. The total expenditure of the Institute in 2009 (as of 31 December 2009) amounted to \$2,488,589.06 and was less than in 2008. The statement of accounts of the Institute is provided in annex V. SIAP initiated efficiency and economy measures in implementing the programme of work endorsed by the Governing Council at its last session. The measures included reducing the use of consultants by mobilizing resource persons from member States and international agencies and introducing a paperless filing/documentation system within the Institute. The appreciation of the Japanese yen against the United States dollar increased the budget shortfall substantially as staff costs rose.

22. Mr. Aloke Kar joined the Institute on 1 November 2009 as a lecturer/statistician.

#### **IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION**

23. In accordance with the statute of SIAP, the term of the present Governing Council of SIAP will be ending, and the election for a new Governing Council of SIAP will be held during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

24. The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the long-term work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014 and bring it to the attention of the members and associate members of ESCAP. That should enable member States to plan in advance their statistical training requirements and to enhance their ownership over the Institute’s training activities.

25. SIAP is adopting a skills-based (competency-based) training approach to deliver demand-driven training that would contribute to improving the performance of national statistical systems and to institutionalizing statistical training efforts at regional and national levels. In that regard, the Commission may wish to request member States to cooperate with the Institute in refining the core skills framework that would enable member States to identify training needs in statistics.

26. The Commission may recall its resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific. Some of the member States have increased or resumed their cash contributions. The Commission may wish to encourage member States to increase their cash contributions or, for those that have yet to make cash contributions, to resume their support to the Institute. The Commission may wish to encourage members and associate members to contribute to the preparations for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Institute in 2010.

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<sup>3</sup> See Commission resolution 61/2 of 18 May 2005, para. 9.

*Annex I*

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN 2009**

**Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses**

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

- ✧ Six-month Group Training Course in Modules on Fundamental Official Statistics, 29 September 2008-13 March 2009
- ✧ Two-month Group Training Course in Application of Information and Communications Technology to Production and Dissemination of Official Statistics, 11 May-10 July
- ✧ Two-month Group Training Course in Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics, 13 July-11 September
- ✧ Two-month Area-focused Training Course in Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries (with interpretation into Russian), 21 July-18 September

**Short-term TMA-based training courses**

- ✧ Country Training Course on Survey Design, Poverty Analysis and Data Dissemination for Officials of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 23-27 March
- ✧ Workshop on Empirical Country Analysis to Support the Formulation of Viable Policies for Sustainable Economic and Industrial Development, 6-10 April
- ✧ Workshop on Examining Training Materials Prepared for Self-learning Purposes, 30 November-2 December
- ✧ Regional Training Course/Workshop on Population Census Data Analysis Using REDATAM, 7-11 December

**Outreach programme**

- ✧ Country Course on Introduction to STATA Software, 12-16 January in Ulaanbaatar
- ✧ Country Training Workshop on Millennium Development Goals and Use of Administrative Data Systems for Statistical Purposes, 19-23 January in Koror, Palau
- ✧ Country Course on Demographic Statistics, 18-22 May in Jakarta
- ✧ Country Course on the 1993 Systems of National Accounts, 15-19 June in Metro Manila, Philippines
- ✧ Third Regional Course on Integrated Economic Accounts, 22 June-3 July in Metro Manila, Philippines
- ✧ Country Course on Sampling Designs for Household and Enterprise/Establishment Surveys, 6-10 July in Putrajaya, Malaysia
- ✧ Country Course on Multivariate Statistics, 21-25 July in Colombo
- ✧ Fourth Regional Course/Workshop on Statistical Quality Management and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 21-25 September in Daejeon, Republic of Korea

- ✧ Research-based Training Course for Mongolia, 28 September-2 October in Ulaanbaatar
- ✧ Fifth Regional Course on Poverty Measurements, 29 September-9 October in Jakarta
- ✧ Country Course on Analysis, Interpretation and Research in Statistics, 12-22 October in Male'
- ✧ Subregional Course on 2010 Population Census Data Quality, 19-23 October in Macao, China
- ✧ Country Course on Small Area Estimation, 16-20 November in Thimphu

**Seminars/workshops for managers**

- ✧ Eighth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, 3-5 November in New Delhi
- ✧ Fourth Workshop on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, 18-19 November in Phuket, Thailand

**Distance training**

Three SIAP-JICA distance-learning training courses:

- ✧ Introduction to STATA (two courses)
- ✧ Introduction to the System of National Accounts (SNA)



*Annex II*

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS THAT COMPLETED TRAINING COURSES  
IN 2009**

<i>Subregional</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
<i>Total</i>	585	314	271
East and North-East Asia	109	37	72
South-East Asia	201	96	105
South and South-West Asia	183	130	53
North and Central Asia	7	2	5
Pacific	41	19	22
Non-ESCAP	44	30	14
<i>Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)</i>			
<i>Total</i>	107	69	38
East and North-East Asia	8	2	6
South-East Asia	26	13	13
South and South-West Asia	34	29	5
North and Central Asia	6	2	4
Pacific	5	3	2
Non-ESCAP	28	20	8
<i>Outreach Programme</i>			
<i>Total</i>	368	181	187
East and North-East Asia	78	28	50
South-East Asia	149	69	80
South and South-West Asia	103	67	36
North and Central Asia	1	0	1
Pacific	35	15	20
Non-ESCAP	2	2	0
<i>Distance-learning training</i>			
<i>Total</i>	110	64	46
East and North-East Asia	23	7	16
South-East Asia	26	14	12
South and South-West Asia	46	34	12
Pacific	1	1	0
Non-ESCAP	14	8	6

Since its inception in 1970, SIAP has trained nearly 12,000 government officials-statisticians from 124 developing countries and contributed towards the expected accomplishments of ESCAP under subprogramme 7, Statistics.

*Annex III*

**WORK PLAN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010**

**Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses**

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

- ✧ Two-month Group Training Course in 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 (Economic Statistics)
- ✧ Two-month Area-focused Training Course in Integrated Economic Statistics, including the System of National Accounts (SNA), for Central Asian Countries (with interpretation into Russian)
- ✧ Four-month Group Training Course on Production and Development of Official Statistics in Support of National Development, including the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

**Short-term TMA-based training courses**

- ✧ SIAP-Asian Development Bank (ADB) Training Workshop on Analysis and Interpretation of Official Statistics
- ✧ SIAP-United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Training Course on Engendering Population Censuses
- ✧ SIAP-UNFPA Course/Workshop on Population Census Data Analysis Using REDATAM
- ✧ SIAP-UNFPA Workshop on Population Census Communication
- ✧ Research-based training workshop

**Outreach programme**

- ✧ Regional Training Course on Poverty Measurement, Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation
- ✧ Subregional workshops to build capacity of data producers and users to produce/utilize Millennium Development Goal-related indicators
- ✧ Subregional training course on vital registration systems
- ✧ Regional course on integrated economic accounts, including the 2008 SNA
- ✧ Country training/workshops on the production of disaggregated Millennium Development Goal-related data using population and housing censuses and data analysis
- ✧ Country training/workshops on the 2008 SNA

**Seminars/workshops for managers**

- ✧ Management seminar for the heads of national statistical offices
- ✧ Regional workshop/seminar for deputy heads/middle level managers of national statistical offices

**E-learning and distance training**

- ✧ SIAP-JICA distance training courses for SIAP-JICA TMA-based group training courses
- ✧ SIAP-Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) distance training courses on a trial basis (negotiation under way)
- ✧ Development and updating of e-training materials on selected topics

*Annex IV*

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2009**

**Institutional support (joint contribution):  
Funds received as of 31 December 2009**

(United States dollars)

<b>Country/area</b>	<b>2009</b>
Bhutan	1 000.00
Brunei Darussalam	14 975.00
Cambodia	6 000.00
China	40 000.00
Fiji	4 980.00
Hong Kong, China	60 000.00
India	39 945.00
Indonesia	15 000.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	17 948.15
Japan	1 665 680.00
Kyrgyzstan	1 479.59
Macao, China	18 000.00
Malaysia	40 000.00
Mongolia	10 000.00
Pakistan	14 011.34
Papua New Guinea	20 000.00
Republic of Korea	17 123.64
Samoa	975.00
Singapore	15 000.00
Sri Lanka	9 960.00
Thailand	20 000.00
Tonga	1 475.00
Turkey	12 425.00
Viet Nam	3 000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 048 977.72</b>

*Annex V*

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**Institutional support as of 31 December 2009**

(United States dollars)

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Balance carried over 31 Dec. 2008</b>	<b>Contributions (2009)</b>	<b>Expenditure (2009)</b>	<b>Interest earned (2009)</b>	<b>Account transfers (2009)</b>	<b>Balance as of 31 Dec. 2009</b>
Institutional support – joint contribution	3 716 438.75	2 048 977.72	2 488 589.06	83 151.71	0.00	3 359 979.12
Technical cooperation projects – United Nations regular programme for technical cooperation (section 22)	0.00	240 000.00	215 953.99	0.00	0.00	24 046.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 716 438.75</b>	<b>2 288 977.72</b>	<b>2 704 543.05</b>	<b>83 151.71</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3 384 025.13</b>

*Annex VI*

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS FIFTH SESSION**

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**I. ORGANIZATION**

**A. Opening of the session**

1. The fifth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) was held in Phuket, Thailand, on 16 and 17 November 2009.
2. The representative of China welcomed all the participants.
3. The opening remarks of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) were delivered by the Director of the Statistics Division of ESCAP.
4. Ms. Jirawan Boonperm, Director-General of the national statistical office of Thailand, made a statement on behalf of the Government hosting the session.

## **B. Attendance**

5. The session was attended by representatives of all nine members of the Governing Council: China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.
6. Representatives of the following countries and areas attended the session as observers: Australia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; New Zealand; Philippines; and Russian Federation.
7. A representative of the following United Nations body participated as an observer: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific Regional Office.
8. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies participated as observers: International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics and International Monetary Fund (IMF).
9. A representatives of the following intergovernmental organization also participated as an observer: Asian Development Bank (ADB).

## **C. Election of officers**

10. The Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:  
  
Chair: Mr. Feng Nailin (China)  
Vice-Chair: Mr. Makoto Shimizu (Japan)
11. The Chair invited the representative of Japan, which contributed significantly to SIAP, to make a statement. The representative of Japan expressed his gratitude to the members and associate members of ESCAP for their participation in the Governing Council session, paid tribute to the SIAP Director for the efforts that had been made to prepare the session and welcomed the Chair's excellent leadership in managing the session.

## **D. Agenda**

12. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Matters arising from the fourth session of the Governing Council.
  5. Report of the Director of the Institute.
  6. Long-term work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014.
  7. Work plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2011.
  8. Update on the evaluation of the Institute.

9. Review of the draft annual report of the Institute to the Commission.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.

## **II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

13. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled “Matters arising from the fourth session of the Governing Council” (STAT/SIAP/GC(5)/1). The Council noted 14 such matters and the actions that had since been taken by the Institute, including strategies to strengthen arrangements for increasing cash and in kind contributions, enhancing distance training and providing e-training resources, conducting joint training activities with country partner institutions and international organizations, and assessing training needs in the region.

14. The representative of Japan encouraged the members to adhere to the direction provided in Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific. He also requested national statistical offices to coordinate with the relevant ministries and assign priority to statistics in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) training needs survey.

15. The Council members and several representatives from other countries expressed their appreciation for the work done by SIAP. The representatives of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, and the Philippines pledged strong support to collaborate with the Institute in its outreach programme. India expressed the desire to further increase its cash contributions to SIAP. Indonesia expressed its intention to increase its cash contribution from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in 2011. The Republic of Korea stated that it would increase its cash contribution to the Institute to 50,000 in 2010 as well as increasing in kind contributions.

## **III. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

16. The Council had before it the report of the Director of SIAP (STAT/SIAP/GC(5)/2). The Director highlighted key results achieved, new initiatives implemented, a summary of SIAP activities in the reporting period and institutional matters.

17. The Director pointed out that the Institute focused on strengthening the capability of participants to provide reliable data to monitor the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the 1993/2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), as well as using information and communications technology for processing, analysing and disseminating data.

18. The Governing Council noted that, with the strong support of the host Government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the distance training programme had become a regular training programme in the Institute’s portfolio of training modalities. The Governing Council was also informed of the intention of SIAP to provide e-training materials on “1993/2008 SNA” and “Survey methodology” for self-learning purposes to a wider circle of users by the end of 2009 on a trial basis.



19. The Director reported that collaborations with member States and other partners had played an important role in implementing the annual work plan of the Institute. They had not only provided the opportunity to combine efforts to maximize the use of limited resources, but had also allowed SIAP to respond more effectively to the diverse capability development needs of member States. During the reporting period, the Institute had collaborated with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, BPS-Statistics of Indonesia, the Statistical Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Statistical Research and Training Centre of the Philippines, and Statistics Korea of the Republic of Korea in organizing regional training courses, workshops and seminars. Several United Nations and international organizations, namely the United Nations Statistics Division, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ILO, ADB, IMF, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the World Bank had provided resource persons and funds to cover the travel costs of participants and SIAP faculty members for training activities organized by the Institute.

20. With regard to financial matters, the Director informed the Council that, despite substantial cutbacks in overall official development assistance, the cash contribution from the Government of Japan in 2009 had been maintained at close to the same level as the previous year so as to constitute the bulk of the overall cash contributions received by SIAP. The Government of Japan also provided in kind contributions in the form of administrative and infrastructural support to the Institute. The provision of resource persons through the Office of the Director General for Policy Planning (Statistics Standards) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, as well as of 58 fellowships for the Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based training courses through JICA, was acknowledged by the Governing Council.

21. The representative of Japan informed the Council that his country was making efforts to ensure the financial support of SIAP. Due to recent economic crisis, however, the financial authority of the Government of Japan had reduced expenditures for most Government activities. Further, the representative expressed his belief that all countries would strengthen financial support to SIAP on the basis of Commission resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific, which would further raise their sense of ownership over the training programme of SIAP.

22. The representative of Japan also emphasized that it was very important to take the opportunity of the fortieth anniversary of SIAP to make its role widely understood, leading to the expansion of support to SIAP. He pledged the support of Japan to make the anniversary celebration a success. Some members shared the view that the event could be used to encourage more countries to make contributions to SIAP. Several members expressed their interest in playing an important role in the fortieth anniversary of SIAP and enquired as to how they could contribute to the event.

23. Council members stressed that countries other than Japan should, where possible, increase cash contributions to SIAP to assist it in carrying out its activities. The Republic of Korea mentioned its desire to increase in kind contributions by conducting subregional courses on the Millennium Development Goals and disability statistics, while the representative of India offered to host regional and subregional courses on SNA and sample survey methodology.

24. On the gender issue, the Institute was asked to take action to increase female participation in its courses, while paying due attention to qualifications and competencies.

25. The representative of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics expressed concern about low participation from the Pacific and Central Asian countries in SIAP training programmes. Responding to the question, the Director of SIAP explained that, in assigning placements for training courses, the Institute had been considering the size of the population of member States as well as the number of staff working in national statistical offices.

26. One member enquired about the possibility of sending the annual training programme and list of invited countries well in advance to enable the countries to consider the funding of their participation in case they were not invited. The Director responded that the calendar of programmed SIAP activities was posted on the website and was updated regularly.

27. Referring to a concern raised by one representative, the Director informed the Council that the Institute had clearly advised participants to refrain from bringing family members along with them to SIAP training courses.

28. The UNFPA representative emphasized the need for SIAP to work closely with the United Nations country teams to identify and address statistical needs more accurately.

29. The Council requested that SIAP organize more training on how to address the statistical data needs of policymakers, such as rapid assessment to evaluate the impact of the recent financial crisis.

30. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed his country's intention to make a voluntary contribution to SIAP and to support workshops and seminars, including on topics relating to the population census and information and communications technology.

31. The Governing Council recognized the tremendous efforts made by the Institute in addressing the statistical capacity-building needs of member States despite the challenges it faced, in particular resource constraints.

32. The Governing Council urged the Institute to increase effectiveness and efficiency by expanding e-learning training activities.

33. The Governing Council noted that several member States had increased their cash contributions to the Institute in spite of a difficult financial situation.

34. The Governing Council expressed its deep appreciation of the contributions of the following:

(a) The host Government, the Government of Japan, for its continuous and generous support, both in cash and in kind, and for the provision of JICA fellowships for TMA-based courses;

(b) The contributing members and associate members in the region, for their continuing cash contributions, through which they demonstrated their support for the work of the Institute;

(c) The governments of China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Tonga and Macao, China for increased contributions in cash and in kind made in hosting regional and subregional courses;

(d) The Government of Turkey for resuming its cash contributions;

(e) United Nations agencies and international organizations, particularly ADB, ESCAP, ILO, IMF, ECE, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UNIDO, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank for collaborating with SIAP in the implementation of its training programme.

#### **IV. LONG-TERM PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 2010-2014**

35. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled "Long-term plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014" (STAT/SIAP/GC(5)/3).

36. It was reported that the proposed long-term work plan of the Institute had been prepared on the basis of the strategic plan of SIAP for the academic years 2010-2014, which had been endorsed by the Governing Council at its fourth session, in November 2008. The Council was informed that the long-term plan had also been harmonized with ESCAP subprogramme 7, Statistics, for the biennium 2010-2011.

37. It was mentioned that, to develop the long-term work plan, the Institute had conducted a training needs survey using a comprehensive core skills framework structure to identify the different training needs of officials working at all levels in national statistical offices and the national statistical system as a whole. A report on the survey results was presented to the Governing Council.

38. The Council was informed that the Institute was preparing a course curriculum and training design for TMA-based courses using the core skills framework in 2010.

39. Different types of training components were presented and explained under the categories of TMA, outreach and distance training. A new series of TMA-based short-term courses was presented to the Governing Council, along with new e-learning methods using the Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS) being negotiated with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for future courses. A newly structured research-based programme was also presented to the members of the Governing Council.

40. The Governing Council noted that the Institute would achieve objectives/outcomes by: (a) strengthening partnership cooperation with other organizations at the regional, subregional and country levels; (b) providing distance training and e-learning, which would complement the ongoing face-to-face training; and (c) training of trainers.

41. The Governing Council was provided with a rough outline of the financial resources required for implementation of the long-term work plan.

42. Representatives were of the view that the core skills framework was practical and could capture more specific training needs. It was observed that the core skills framework could be used for the proper selection of specific people for specific

trainings and the maximization of scarce resources. It was suggested that the core skills framework be used on a pilot basis.

43. The representative of the Philippines offered to assist in piloting the use of the skills-based training approach.

44. The representative of Thailand stated that SIAP trainings were demand-driven and fulfilled the needs of many countries. She expressed concern, however, about the staff shortage at SIAP and other constraints. While acknowledging the training needs assessment survey by SIAP, she enquired about the possibility of incorporating issues of management of the statistical system into training curricula, thus enabling the development of a more comprehensive training programme for the national statistical offices.

45. The representative of the Republic of Korea spoke about the difficulties faced in managing the research-based training courses that the Republic of Korea had hosted and requested that SIAP select the best possible candidates to obtain the best results.

46. One member expressed the view that training of trainers was necessary and that SIAP should arrange more trainings to include issues on management and coordination aspects.

47. One representative supported the direction SIAP had taken towards e-learning and stated the advantages of using an e-library to facilitate distance and e-learning.

48. The representative of ADB expressed the view that countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region were still lagging behind in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. She suggested that short three- to five-day courses could be organized to address difficult areas, such as the estimation of the value of the services provided by banks and other financial intermediaries, the estimation of the imputed rent of owner-occupied dwellings and specific issues on implementation of the 1993 SNA.

49. The representative of IMF, supporting the ADB proposal to develop short courses, expressed the intention of IMF to continue cooperating with SIAP, by, among other things, providing assistance in designing a training programme in integrated economic statistics.

50. The representative of ILO mentioned that ILO could work closely with SIAP and that areas of cooperation could include labour force surveys with child labour components in Cambodia, a labour force survey in Afghanistan in 2010 and the informal economy. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his country could also help ILO in training Afghanistan on different surveys.

51. In response, the Director of SIAP said that other international agencies could also share the burden by sharing administrative costs while arranging courses.

52. Many Council members expressed support for the proposed long-term work plan of the skills-based training and emphasized the need to pay attention to issues relating to the effective use of existing limited resources and collaborations with other agencies in carrying out its activities.

53. The Council endorsed the long-term plan, with the above-mentioned recommendations and suggestions to be incorporated.

## **V. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011**

54. The Governing Council had before the document entitled “Programme of work of the Institute for the academic year 2010” (STAT/SIAP/GC(5)/3).

55. The Director informed the Council that the TMA-based courses and the regional/subregional courses in the proposed work programme were part of the long-term work plan proposed for the five-year period 2010-2014.

56. The Council was also informed that the SIAP-JICA TMA-based courses were to be finalized 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 the Japanese fiscal year 2010. Similarly, 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 the fiscal year 2010/11.

57. Referring to the cost-effective measures adopted by SIAP, one Council member mentioned that they were in accordance with the strategic plan as endorsed at the fourth session of the Governing Council.

58. The Council recommended that SIAP prioritize activities for the academic years 2010 and 2011 if the Institute faced a situation of insufficient resources, including financial, and that it provide the Council with rough estimates of required financial resources.

59. The Council requested a more detailed 2010 work programme to be shared among the members.

60. India and the Philippines recommended endorsing the two-year work plan. UNFPA enquired about the possibility of obtaining financial assistance from other donors and cautioned that sufficient flexibility should be allowed to reflect the emerging interests of countries.

61. The Council endorsed the two-year work plan on the assumption that funding and partnership requirements would be met fully.

## **VI. UPDATE ON THE EVALUATION OF THE INSTITUTE**

62. The Director informed the Council that the evaluation of SIAP had been delayed due to the time taken to identify and recruit the most suitably qualified candidate. She reported that Ms. Denise Lievesley had been contracted and the evaluation was currently under way. The final evaluation report was expected by the end of January 2010 and would be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session. At its sixth session, the Governing Council would consider the evaluation report, the response of SIAP management and the actions undertaken by SIAP to follow up on the recommendations, as well as views expressed or decisions taken at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission. The Council was informed of the process of the evaluation, including the role of the reference group, the methodology and the timeline.

63. The Director clarified that the findings and recommendations of the evaluation would feed into revisions of the strategic and implementation plans.

## **VII. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE TO THE COMMISSION**

64. The meeting had before it the draft annual report of SIAP to the Commission (STAT/SIAP/GC(5)/5). The members were informed that the reporting period covered calendar year 2009.

65. The Council requested that a revised draft with updated information, incorporating the decisions and recommendations made at its fifth session, be prepared and circulated to Council members for comment prior to submission to the Commission.

## **VIII. OTHER MATTERS**

66. It was mentioned that the fortieth anniversary of SIAP would be celebrated in Tokyo in August/September 2010, with the support of the host Government.

67. The ESCAP secretariat informed the Council that the next session of the Commission would be held in the Republic of Korea in May 2010. As it had been proposed that all regional institutions would set up booths at the venue of the Commission session, it was recommended that SIAP take that opportunity to broadcast its role in order to raise more support and understanding of the importance of the Institute and to give due publicity to the fortieth anniversary of SIAP.

68. The Governing Council agreed to hold the sixth session of the Governing Council back to back with the session of the Committee on Statistics that was scheduled to be held in Bangkok in December 2010.

## **IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

69. On 17 November 2009, the Governing Council adopted the report on its fifth session.

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