Concept Note
Experts Meeting for the Review of Training Resources for the Regional Programme for Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
20-21 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

As part of the Regional Programme to Improve Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP is developing a training package for use by National Statistical Offices wishing to offer training on economic statistics to new and junior staff. The training package is developed in response to repeatedly expressed needs by statistical offices wishing to offer regular, timely and tailored training at the national level. Once finalized, the training package, comprising curriculum and materials, will become a publicly available, free of charge resource.

A meeting of experts is being organized in Bangkok from 20 to 21 November 2018 to review the training package and make recommendations on its finalization and use.

With this objective in mind, the expert meeting will:

1. Review the draft training curriculum, including:
   a. its appropriateness for national training in economic statistics for junior statisticians.
   b. its readiness for piloting in selected countries;
   c. Identifying gaps or other shortcomings of the curriculum;

2. Assess the quality and suitability of training materials, including:
   a. their compliance to international standards;
   b. their compatibility with training objectives outlined in the curriculum;
   c. Identifying gaps or other shortcomings.

3. Recommend improvements for finalization and roll-out of the training package, including on
   a. How to address the identified gaps and shortcomings of the curriculum and training materials
   b. The development of training of trainers’ courses and materials
   c. Other support needed to enable the use of the training package by national statistical offices
**Expected Outcomes**

The meeting is expected to generate the following outcomes:

1. Technical guidance in the form of comments and recommendations on the finalization of the training package;
2. Recommendations on the development of training of trainers’ course and materials;
3. Recommendations on support to enable country up-take and use of the training package.

**Participation**

Experts will be drawn from national statistical offices, training institutes involved in delivery of official statistical training, independent economic statistics experts and select members of the Network for the Coordination of Training in the Asia-Pacific.

**Building national training capacity**

The effective way to build and maintain NSS staff skills is for a country to be able to provide training on a regular basis, at least for new and junior statisticians. This training package responds to the needs of NSSs to deliver basic economic statistics training in a sustainable manner. International training should be directed at niche areas, new areas, senior management-type areas, or areas that are not required to be taught at regular intervals. For international training to be effective and efficient, it is important that countries take a leading role in conducting basic economic statistics so that their staff are better prepared for specialised advanced training in economic statistics in the future. Similarly, this approach ensures that countries take deliberate steps in integrating internal-on job training in their budgets and training plans. High costs of regional or international training often limit the number of staff that countries can send for training. In addition, international partners are strained in terms of financial resources, and may not train all junior level statisticians in basic economic statistics. If basic economic statistics skills can be nurtured through training at a national level, more junior staff can benefit.