

Report

Fourth meeting of the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific

*12 December 2012, 17:30-19:00 hrs
Bangkok*

I. Election of co-chairs

Partners re-elected the current co-chairs ADB and UNFPA for the next two year term covering 2013-2014.

II. Working group (WG) on coordination of statistical training

Mr T C A Anant, Secretary and Chief Statistician, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, India, and the Chair of the WG thanked the partners for their input to the “Training Needs Assessment Survey” and the “Strategy for coordination of statistical training in Asia and the Pacific region”.

The Chair of the WG briefly presented the recommendations of the group to improve coordination of statistical training in the Asia-Pacific region, as contained in their report to the Committee on Statistics.

The partners appreciated the recommended normative approach to coordination. Partners supported the focus on coordinating statistical training activities that are undertaken in order to build the long term capacity of statistical staff, rather than ad-hoc training activities in relation to specific projects. Partners agreed that a comprehensive regional assessment of training needs is essential. The SIAP Core Skills Framework (CSF) and the ECE classification of statistical activities should be further developed and used to provide a common language for such assessment and also for sharing information.

Partners supported WG recommendation to establish an advisory body in order to coordinate statistical training in the Asia-Pacific region. Partners agreed that the advisory body should align their priority with that of the Committee.

III. Implementation of the regional plan for improving Economic Statistics in Asia-Pacific

The ESCAP secretariat updated the Partnership on the progress of work related to Economic Statistics.

The Regional Plan, which was developed by countries and partner organizations, is ready for implementation. However, funding has yet to be identified for its implementation.

Partners agreed that they can play an important role in securing funds at the regional and national levels for the implementation of the Regional Plan. Partners expressed that they should make effort to raise awareness regarding this programme among their national counterparts. Partners expressed that sharing of existing resources of partner organizations, including through further alignment of existing

programmes and projects with the Regional Plan and the Core Set of economic statistics, will be instrumental to successful implementation of the plan.

Partners advised that the Committee should appeal to the development partners to dedicate resources and be more actively involved in this initiative.

Action point: Partners requested the ESCAP secretariat to organize a focused meeting among relevant international development partners, including ADB, ESCAP, IMF and World Bank, to discuss how to move this initiative further through a partnership approach. Such meeting could take place in conjunction with the next session of the Statistical Commission.

IV. Implementation of the regional action plan for improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia-Pacific

Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Policy & Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Bhutan, and the Vice-chair of the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics presented the Regional Action Plan to the Partnership. The plan was developed by countries and partner organizations. ADB, ESCAP and FAO RAP established a regional partnership to coordinate the development and implementation of the plan, which was recognized as a very good example of a collaborative approach among partners.

FAO RAP informed the partners that funding had been committed by DFID towards implementation of the plan. Preparation of MoU between participating agencies and FAO is in progress.

Partners noted the necessity of involvement by relevant partner organizations in the implementation as the plan suggests establishment of Regional Centers of Excellence in technical areas, and Network of Training Providers. Partners also noted that there is a gap between required and available budget, the closing of which will benefit from partners' effort.

V. Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics; and Regional programme on Gender Statistics

The secretariat provided a brief update to the Partnership on the two areas of work.

A core set of Social Statistics has been developed by the Technical Advisory Group to be considered by the Committee for endorsement. A number of partners served on the group. The Technical Advisory Group will welcome the involvement of other relevant partners in its future work to create synergy with other ongoing initiatives.

ESCAP participated in the Global Review of gender statistics, conducted in collaboration with UNSD in 2012. The result of the review will provide inputs in the development of the regional programme for improving gender statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

ILO expressed interest to collaborate in the development of the regional programme and the regional core set of gender statistics and indicators.

Partners expressed that, not only statisticians, but also users and agencies working on gender equality and empowerment of women should be involved in the development of the regional core set. Partners recommended that, in developing a core set and a regional programme on gender statistics, collaboration with ongoing initiatives such as UN Women-UNSD project EDGE should be established.

VI. Follow up on the High-level Meeting on civil registration and vital statistics

Anneke Schmider, Director of Strategic Projects, Australian Bureau of Statistics presented to the Partnership the purpose and results of the High-level Meeting.

SPC and UNFPA shared with the partners how the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in the Pacific was facilitated by a strong partnership of the Brisbane Accord Group (Comprising the University of Queensland Health Information Systems Knowledge Hub, SPC, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, Pacific Health Information Network, ABS, University of New South Wales, Queensland University of Technology and Fiji National University) and by the 10-year Pacific Statistics Strategy. Partners noted that the right mixture of expertise and resources possessed by the partnership, and the strategy of closely working with all stakeholders, including health and civil registration authorities, at the country level have led to the success of the Pacific initiative.

The partners recognized that an efficient CRVS system might be costly to establish and maintain, but the benefits greatly outweighs the cost. Partners recognized the need to re-align the priorities of relevant organizations to work together to improve CRVS systems of the Asia-Pacific region. Partners noted the need for resources for moving forward this initiative.

VII. Update from 2012 round of PRESS

The partners thanked Paris21 and OECD for providing the key findings from the 2012 round of PRESS.

The Partners noted that support to statistical development is increasing globally, although Asia-Pacific's share is decreasing. In Asia and the Pacific, support is still concentrated in a very small number of "aid darlings".

VIII. Next step

The partners agreed to hold the next (fifth) meeting in conjunction with the CCSA meeting in September 2013. The exact time and venue, and agenda of the meeting will be decided in consultation with co-chairs.

Fourth Meeting of Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific

Bangkok, 12 December 2012

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA

Ms Anneke Schmider, Director, CRVS International Projects, Australian Bureau of Statistics,
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queensland, Australia

BHUTAN

Mr Karpo Dukpa, Statistician, Policy & Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests,
Thimphu

INDIA

Mr T C A Anant, Secretary and Chief Statistician, Ministry of Statistics & Programme
Implementation, New Delhi

PHILIPPINES

Mr Romeo Recide, Director, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Quezon
City, Philippines

UNITED NATIONS BODIES

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Mr Claes Johansson, Senior Adviser, Data Dissemination and Global Administrator, Dev Info
Statistics and Monitoring, UNICEF, New York

Ms Amalee McCoy, Regional Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Bangkok

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Mr Eduard Jongstra, Population and Development Adviser, UNFPA, Suva

Mr Christophe Lefranc, Technical Adviser, Population and Development (Census and Data),
UNFPA, Bangkok

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Mr Pietro Gennari, Director, Statistics Division, FAO, Rome

Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, FAO, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Mr David Hunter, Senior Statistician, ILO, Geneva

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Mr Shyam Upadhyaya, Chief Statistician, UNIDO, Vienna

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Ms Chellam Palanyandy, Lead Statistician, Economics and Research Department, ADB, Manila

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Mr Marco Mira d'Ercole, Head of Division, Statistics Directorate, OECD, Paris

Mr Eric Bensel, Administrator, PARIS21, OECD, Paris

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Mr Gerald Haberkorn, Manager, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, Noumea Cedex

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH TRAINING CENTRE
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Dr Savas Alpay, Director General, SESRIC, Oran-Ankara

Mr Atilla Karaman, Researcher, Statistics and Information Department, SESRIC, Oran-Ankara

SECRETARIAT

Ms Haishan Fu	Chief, Statistics Division (SD)
Ms Rikke Munk Hansen	Chief, Statistical Information Services Section (SISS), SD
Mr Yanhong Zhang	Officer-in-Charge, Statistical Development and Analysis Section (SDAS), SD
Mr Daniel Clarke	Statistician, SDAS, SD
Mr Habibur Rahman Khan	Associate Statistician, SDAS, SD
Ms Sharita Serrao	Associate Statistician, SDAS, SD

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

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Mr Hiroyuki Kitada	Deputy Director, SIAP, Chiba, Japan
