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Coordination of statistical capacity-building

activities: Statistical training

Response to request for information for preparation of document E/ESCAP/CST(2)/8 - Response by China¹

Statistical Education and Training Center (China International Statistical Training Center) of National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) is an institution directly affiliated to the National Bureau of Statistics of China. It's mainly responsible for providing statistical training to the domestic statisticians and the official statisticians from developing countries. There are 8 divisions responsible for the domestic training, namely the Division of Training to the Staff of NBS, Division of Training to the Staff of Statistical System, Division of Training to the Staff of the Industry, and Division of Long Distance Training. Besides, there are three divisions responsible for international training, i.e. International Liaison Division, International Training Division and the Training Design Division. The operation of the institution is funded by NBS, and it has now been equipped with various teaching classrooms, computer rooms, networks and other advanced teaching facilities. When conducting the international trainings, it receives the professional guidance of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

¹ This document was contributed by the National Bureau of Statistics of China, China. It has been reproduced without formal editing. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations

1. Training Tasks and Goals

(1) Tasks of training to the domestic statistical professionals

- Training design and policy formulation;
- Accreditation of the professional qualification;
- Training of the professional statistical technology;
- Continued education training of senior statisticians;
- Popularization of statistics knowledge among the general public;
- Construction of training resources and lecture resources, research of statistical education, as well as long distance training.

(2) Tasks on the training to the official statisticians from developing countries

- Cooperative training. Conducting training to the statisticians of developing countries together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Statistics Division;
- Bilateral and multilateral training. With the entrustment of developing countries, assisting their training to intermediate and senior statisticians, mainly targeted to the Asian developing countries;
- The international communication and cooperation on statistical training. Conducting exchanges and cooperation with international organizations, international statistical training agencies, and national statistical agencies on statistical training, to popularize the statistical reform achievements and experience of China and other developing countries.

To improve working efficiency of official statistics, strengthen the global statistical capacity, especially the statistical capacity of the developing countries including China through international training and cooperation.

Since the institution was newly established in the first half of 2010, there is no existing experience to follow, it can only constantly explore and develop in practice. In international statistical training, the Center will, based on China's statistics and by learning from the international experience, conduct training program according to the requirement of NBS "Improving statistical data quality, improving the statistical capacity and raising the credibility of official statistics"; giving full play to the international and domestic intellectual, and the core objective is to improve the capacity of statisticians in China and other developing countries; by implementing the

programs, popularizing China and China's statistics, taking an active part in international statistical affairs; promoting training on international statistical idea and experience exchanges in order to provide services to the statistics work in China and the world.

(3) Training Goals

- Improving the quality of China's official statisticians and China's official statistical capacity, by providing statistical trainings at various levels;
- Solving the problems and difficulties faced by China and other developing countries in official statistics, jointly improving the official statistical capacity and promoting the economic and social development by the trainings together with UNSD and the bilateral and multilateral cooperative trainings with developing countries;
- Striving to apply the internationally universal and standard statistical theories and methods, to promote the realization of Millennium Development Goal of United Nations.

2. The Training Keys and Mode of Statistical Education and Training Center of NBS (China International Statistical Training Center)

The institution conducts the trainings and workshops in order to improve the quality of statistical data, the statistical capacity and the credibility of official statistics. To this end, such contents as the reform of statistical methods, statistical data quality guarantee mechanism, statistical contingent construction and the maintenance and construction of official statistics credibility, are determined as the keys of training.

According to the contents and training targets, the training modes adopted are different.

- Providing teaching material, disks, auxiliary material, tutoring material, courseware and training plan to the vast statistical workers and professionals, and organizing final assessment and accreditation;
- Inviting teaching staff from the institutions of higher learning and the experts of NBS to conduct trainings for senior statisticians on specific topics in the form of short-term lectures and workshops;
- Cooperating with the UNSD to conduct training. The UNSD is responsible for selecting experts and conducting training and workshops on certain statistics topic together with the Chinese experts;

- Receiving the training entrustment from developing countries. The Chinese side invites experts and explains the mode and methods of statistics combined with China's statistical practice.

3. The development orientation and future training by the Statistical Education and Training Center of NBS (China International Statistical Training Center)

(1) Main existing problems

At present, the outstanding problem faced by China's statistics work is that the existing statistical capacity can not meet the requirement of the economic and social development in the transitional period. The statistical survey is facing with the multi-challenges of economic profits, the statistical methods need to be reformed, and the quality and professional ethic of the statistical workers need to be improved

(2) Development orientation (only limited to the China International Statistical Training Center)

In the four years from 2010 to 2013, while conducting trainings to the domestic statisticians, the institution will also, based on the UN Trust Fund Program on Statistical Capability Development, expand the influence of China's statistics, strengthen cooperation and communication with the international statistics circle by holding international workshops jointly with UNSD, to strive to make the Center as an international statistics training institution with domestic influence.

During the two years from 2014 to 2015, we will try our best to build the Center as an international statistics training institution with influence in Asia on its 5th year anniversary, forming a scientific, pragmatic and forward-looking system of international statistical training with Chinese characteristics.

During the five years from 2016 to 2020, we will strive to make the Center as an international statistical training institution with broad influence in the international arena with optimized functions, advanced facilities and outstanding effects in 2020 which marks its 10th anniversary.

4. Answers to some specific questions

Question 1: How would your organization's mandate to provide statistical training be best described? Please provide a summary of its key features.

Answer:

(1) Main Tasks of Statistical Education and Training Center of NBS (China International Statistical Training Center):

- Drafting the mid and long term plan and the relevant regulations of the statistical education and training;
- Improving the professional quality of the governmental statisticians and the statistical staffs, focusing on such theoretical knowledge as statistics, economics and management;
- Conducting research in statistical education and teaching;
- Popularizing national statistics;
- Undertaking the training to the statisticians from developing countries by NBS and UNSD;
- Assisting the training to their intermediate and senior statisticians with the entrustment of the developing countries;
- Communicating and cooperating with relevant international organizations, international statistical training institutions and national statistical agencies in international statistical training.

(2) Main Features of Training Tasks:

- Broad scale of training targets;
There are more than 1200 staff in NBS ; around 100,000 in statistical system; and over 8 million statisticians regularly providing statistical report to the statistical agencies.
- Arduous tasks in the construction of training resources;
The statistics work is highly professional, with rapid reform in statistical regulations and methods. Thus, the construction of such training resources as statistical teaching material is under big pressure and heavy work load.
- Frequent transfer of statistical positions;
The statistical positions at grassroots level is frequently transferred, leading to insufficient stability in statistics group and deciding that the training work need to take a normal state.
- Less recognition of the general public to statistics;
Since the general public have less recognition to statistics, sometimes they may be suspicious of the official statistics data, which influence the credibility of the official statistics. Thus, it's necessary to popularize the statistics work to the general public and popularize the statistics knowledge.
- Robust increase in the demand of international statistical training;
As the biggest developing country, China has broad area of exchanges and cooperation with Asian countries. In addition, China has an increasing attractiveness to the vast Asian

developing countries, with robust increase in the demand of international statistical training.

Question 2: What would you consider the major achievements/outputs of your organization in relation to the provision of training in the last five years? Briefly discuss why you consider these as major achievements of your organization. What are some critical success factors that may be drawn from your experiences?

Answer:

(1) The main training achievements in the past five years are as follows:

NBS has held 40 or more sessions of biweekly lectures, with nearly 10,000 participants;

30 or more lectures are targeted to the NBS staff, with an accumulation of more than 3300 trainees.

Every year there are around 15 outbound training groups, with 350 persons going abroad to receive trainings; from 2009, every year 6 persons are selected to work in such international organizations as UNSD for 6 months;

Statistics course is accessible to junior high school and primary school, with the contents of statistics included in mathematics;

Training to the carders in official statistics system;

The access system is applied to the statisticians from enterprises and institutions, with more than 800,000 persons passed the exams in basic knowledge, statistics application and statistics law within five years and obtained the statistics qualification certificate. Every year there are around 60,000 persons taking part in the statistics continued education;

Providing training to Bangladesh official statisticians on National Economic Account, with 12 participants;

Conducting the international trainings to the official statisticians from developing countries on topics such as “From Data to Account”, “Implementation of ISIC and CPC”, “Regional Products and Income Accounts” and “Industrial Statistics”; the international trainees, totaling 85 person times, are from 17 countries: Oman, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, the Philippines, Iran, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Indonesia, India,.

(2) Experience summary

The training contents are targeted on the key issues in statistics work and the hot issues in current economy;

Relying on the achievement in international cooperation programs to conduct various trainings;

The international trainings are conducted side by side with domestic trainings, providing a platform to international exchanges;

The multimedia means is applied to carry out trainings, fully giving play to the role of the internet;

Tracking the training quality in such forms as questionnaire.

(3) The International Workshop in the period of Preparation

International Workshop on CPI; International Workshop on 2008SNA; International Workshop on Population Census.
