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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Statistics

**Third session**

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Coordination of statistic capacity-building activities:**

**Statistical training**

**Documents for the information of the Committee on  
Statistics on item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**Addendum**

**Results of the region-wide consultation on a proposed  
strategy for coordination of statistical training in Asia  
and the Pacific region\*\***

**Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical  
Training**

**Background**

1. At its second session, in December 2010, the Committee on Statistics (CST) created a Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training (WG-RCST) to propose a strategy for improving coordination of statistical training in the Asia-Pacific region. The WG-RCST will present its recommendations at the third session of the CST in December 2012 (see E/ESCAP/CST(3)/12). As part of the process of reviewing and finalizing the recommendations, the WG-RCST carried out a region-wide consultation to obtain the views of national statistical offices of ESCAP members and associate members and 33 international, regional and sub-regional organizations and bilateral donors. The present document presents the results of the region-wide consultation. Twenty one filled-in questionnaires were returned by NSOs and 10 by development partners. Table 1 provides a summary of the responses and Table 2 includes a comprehensive list of comments received from the respondents.

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\* E/ESCAP/CST(3)/L.1/Rev.1.

\*\* This document has been issued without formal editing.

Table 1  
**Summary of the responses**

	Agree	Disagree	No comment
<b>Section 1: General agreement</b>			
1.1- Do you generally agree with the overall approach that the WG-RCST has taken to develop a strategy for regional coordination of statistical training?	31		
1.2- Do you generally agree with the overall strategy proposed for improving regional coordination of statistical training?	30	1	
<b>Section 2: Recommendations of the WG-RCST</b>			
2.1- Do you agree with the definition and principles of training coordination?	31		
2.2- Do you agree with the objectives and expected results of regional coordination of training?	31		
2.3- Do you agree with the strategies for regional coordination of statistical activities?	29	1	1
2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-a) on Creating an “advisory body” for coordination of statistical training?	30		1
a) Recommendation 4b on the nature of the advisory body?	26	2	3
b) Recommendation 4c on the terms of reference for the advisory body?	26	1	4
c) Recommendation 4d on the secretariat of the advisory body?	29		2
2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-b) on creating a technical Expert Group on classification of skills of statistical personnel?	27	2	2
2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-b) that SIAP maintains and shares databases of regional technical cooperation initiatives on statistical training and capacity building?	31		

Table 2

**Complete list of comments received by respondents on each part of the questionnaire**

<b>Involvement in Statistical Training (multiple choices)</b>	
<b>Number</b>	
<b>20</b>	1. Part of national statistical system
<b>5</b>	2. Regional/sub-regional training provider
<b>8</b>	3. International agency involved in development of statistical standards, methods and classifications
<b>9</b>	4. International agency funding statistical capacity building activities

**Section 1: General agreement**

<b>1.1- Do you generally agree with the overall approach that the WG-RCST has taken to develop a strategy for regional coordination of statistical training?</b>	
	<b>Agree - 31</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
Armenia	The staff training is one of the pillars of the NSS RA`s international co-operation policy. The training constitutes an essential component of all the co-operation programmes.
UK_DID	Agree that training of government officials engaged in statistical work is an integral part of capacity building of National Statistical Systems. Clearly a need for a more coordinated delivery among training partners and a proposal to make this more institutionalised should lead to a better choice of relevant training topics and scheduling of activities across the region.

ILO	Considering the importance of the subject the WG-RCST should take the necessary time and resources to involve as many countries in Asia and the Pacific and as many development partners as possible; the TNA covered only 18 countries and to our views this is still too little to draw representative conclusions for the Region. The ILO takes note for example that based on the TNA results, labour and decent work topics such as employment, unemployment, working time, earnings, social protection, and child labour, to name a few, were not at all mentioned under the list of topics in Table A5 which is inconsistent with the demand for training that we have seen. We notice, nonetheless, that household surveys (a very broad category which includes labour force surveys, household income and expenditure surveys and others), ranked third highest in terms of external training needs identified in the TNA.
Singapore	Noted that the WG-RCST, in the review process, had looked into several SIAP reports that were presented or published in 2004 and 2009. It would be good if more recent materials are also referred to (if available) so that the WG-RCST may have a more accurate feel of the state of training and its coordination in the region.
Eurostat	Eurostat welcomes ESCAP initiative to develop a strategy for regional coordination of statistical training.
Malaysia	Comprehensive and supported with evidence (i.e. assessment on member countries).
CIS-STAT	CIS-STAT considers that the WG-RCST should have covered more countries in Asia and the Pacific for training needs assessment to draw representative conclusions for the Region. It also believes that it is necessary to expand the list of topics in Table A5 depending on the needs for training
Indonesia	Previously, the statistical training over the region was designed by SIAP. By this approach, communication and information sharing regarding statistical training will increase. Statistical training demand driven by working group consists of NSOs as members of WG-RCST
<b>1.2- Do you generally agree with the overall strategy proposed for improving regional coordination of statistical training?</b>	
	<b>Agree - 30; Disagree - 1</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
Armenia	Regional coordination and international coordination is very important to produce quality and comparable data that is very important factor to increase an image of statistical office.
FAO	I disagree with the TNAS being sent only to NSO (strategy 2) and recommendation 4b

UNIDO	Training programmes conducted under technical assistance projects of international agencies and under a regular course such as those provided by SIAP or ISI should be distinguished.
UK_DID	The overall strategy will respond to an urgent need for statistical training that delivers effectively to the priorities of countries in the region. It should also improve the impact of an external training system that in turn will improve the capacity of member countries to produce good quality statistics.
ILO	An advisory body is mentioned as a key coordination mechanism, but there is no suggestion of how its membership would be decided or funding for participation of NSO members in advisory body meetings in these times of economic hardship among donor countries.
Timor-Leste	The six strategies set out in paragraphs 32 to 37 of the paper seem appropriate. However, the issue of language is NOT dealt with. Within this office, the English language competencies of staff are limited and this limits the extent to which staff can take advantage of external training courses presented in English
Singapore	For Strategy 3 on the systematic and organised sharing of information, it would be good for information on training activities, materials and resource persons to be made available through a commonly assessable platform to be updated at regular intervals to ensure the currency of the information.
Eurostat	Eurostat agrees with the approach proposed by the WG-RCST on the strategy for regional coordination of statistical training. A better coordination of the statistical training is needed in order to avoid duplication of training efforts and most of all promote training programs which are in line with the priority areas of work of the NSIs.
SESRIC	Overall strategy proposed for improving the regional coordination of statistical trainings basically takes into consideration the outcomes of (i) the PRESS report for identification of statistical areas receiving little support as well as improving donor collaboration and, (ii) the SIAP-Training Needs Survey to identify the priority areas need to be supported or in other words for assessment of capacity building-needs of member countries. In this regard, consistency between the classifications of the statistical activities used in (i) and (ii) has to be taken into account in order to identify the priority areas of statistical trainings from two different perspectives. Additionally, needs of the international organisations involved in development of statistical standards, methods and classifications have to be considered for ensuring promotion of emerging statistical fields; such as, revision of classification systems and methodologies. That's because in some circumstances adopting new methodologies may not be the priority concerns of the National Statistical Offices.
World Bank	Coordinating training across the full range of ESCAP countries is a very tall order – especially since there are so many players providing such a variety of training. We advise a pilot approach where the approach could be tested in a small number of training-intensive countries.
CIS-STAT	CIS-STAT considers that it would be desirable to specify funding for participation of NSO members in advisory body meetings

Indonesia	The strategy proposed in WG-RCST is already good, but it should have a clear agenda for the short and long term for regular meeting
<b>Section 1: Further comments</b>	
Russian Federation	Rosstat participated in the development of the strategy for coordination of statistical training in Asia and the Pacific region. We find proposed approaches well-balanced. In future they would fill all existing gaps and meet the whole range of requirements from various stakeholders.
World Bank	Could more be done to report on the “cost” or burden on low capacity countries in managing the host of overlapping training provided by the range of agencies listed in the report? Perhaps the group could interview one or two countries to document the challenges and use these experiences as a form of advocacy. In general, the coordination can really only happen at the country level.
Indonesia	Overall, the approach and strategy for improving regional coordination of statistical training are good. However, WG-RCST should proposed a strategy to increase country in Self-sufficients NSSs (table 1). With many Self sufficient NSSs, lowering training gaps in the region will be achieved shortly.

## Section 2: Recommendations of the WG-RCST

<b>2.1- Do you agree with the definition and principles of training coordination?</b>	
	<b>Agree - 31</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
Armenia	Training related to statistical exercises like Population, Agricultural and Economic Censuses is very important, providing of trainings to other countries and sharing of experience is also very important.
TURKISTAT	(Paragraph 25): The reason why “on-the-job training” is not considered as statistical training (but “workshop” is), is not clear.. Such practical trainings concerning a specific statistical activity like “on-the-job trainings”, “workshops”, etc. are at the same category in terms of training type/method.
UNIDO	There is abundance of training materials and facilities in one field of statistics such as surveys of human population, but critical gap in other fields such as business structure statistics. Therefore, training programme initially should focus on the area where there is critical demand.

UK-DFID	Encouraged that “statistical training” has strong focus on enhancing skill levels of statistical staff and consistent training formats have been clearly identified (including training conducted by international institutes, but look out for any training overlap or repetition). All training stakeholders need to be clear about their role in the coordination process.
Russian Federation	Presented definitions and principles generally reflect current situation in training activities in the region. They would allow to organize further comprehensive analysis.
Eurostat	Eurostat agrees with the definition of 'coordination' and 'statistical training', as well as with the classification of stakeholders of statistical coordination of training, described in the Recommendation for consideration by the Committee on statistics.
ILO	<p>1) The concept or term “coordination” needs further clarification and development; as an example it is not clear in the report what it entails or requires for External Training Providers, even less so for Member States.</p> <p>2) In paragraph 22, it mentions that ‘statistical training’ “refers to training activities that are undertaken for capacity building of statistical staff, with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of official statistics produced by the national statistical systems.” However, among the topics identified in the TNA results (albeit from an unrepresentative sample of countries) were data analysis, index numbers, and report writing which are clearly activities of the data users. In the case of labour statistics, such activities are often conducted in the public sphere by the Ministries of Labour, and may also be carried out by other ILO constituents including employers’ organizations and worker organizations. These data users are also beneficiaries of ILO statistics and analysis training activities and should be mentioned under paragraph 22. We therefore suggest the following definition: “‘Statistical training’ refers to training activities that are undertaken for capacity building of statistical staff, key line ministry and other key data users, with the ultimate objective of improving the quality of official statistics produced by the national statistical systems and the dissemination and analysis of the statistics by key data users, in accordance with international statistical standards and best practices”.</p> <p>3) We would like to disagree with the content of Paragraph 25, which excludes on-the-job training in the definition of statistical training (p.7): on-the-job training during process implementation (such as surveys or analyses) is one major training strategy used more and more by many development partners, and removing it from the definition would mean underestimating the volume of training provided to Member States; the same is valid for e-learning, which is an alternative used also by Member States and national training institutions to upgrade technical knowledge of national staff.</p> <p>4) It should be noted under paragraph 27 that the ILO provides statistical training at the national as well as regional level, in addition to having a mandate related to coordinating the development of international statistical standards through the International Conference of Labour Statisticians.</p>

SESRIC	In the report, the reason for excluding on-the job training outside the scope of the statistical training is not clear. According to the explanation provided in para 22, statistical training was defined as “statistical training refers to training activities that are undertaken for statistical capacity building of staff.” Therefore it would be better to include on-the job training as part of statistical training as well.
Malaysia	Perhaps in para 22, the ultimate objective should also include improving the timelines and frequency (adequate) of official statistics.
World Bank	agree with all recommendations
CIS-STAT	CIS-STAT considers that the term “coordination” needs more clarification as well as clarification of the definition “Statistical training” in paragraph 22
Indonesia	Paragraph 23: WG-RCST should a develop standard mechanism of distance learning and e-learning
<b>2.2- Do you agree with the objectives and expected results of regional coordination of training?</b>	
	<b>Agree - 31</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
Armenia	It is important to guide countries and orient them on recent developments and priorities on further development and improvement.
UK-DFID	Important to assess the capacity building needs of member states and feed this to training providers so that resources are managed effectively. As well as having a common language and training tools, the quality of training should be consistent and available across the region.
Eurostat	Eurostat actively supports the demand-driven training coming from its Member States, partner countries and regional and international organisations. Although, we also believe that we have an important role to play in the promotion of internationally agreed standards such as SDMX for instance.
SESRIC	Efficient use of both financial and human resources can also be clearly emphasized.
World Bank	recommendations are very sensible



ILO	You may please consider including in the paramount objectives for coordination of statistical training (Paragraph 28, pp. 7-8) the following one: e) To increase awareness on the importance for Member States to produce statistics in accordance with the established international statistical standards. Awareness-raising of the importance of such standards is thus a separate objective from that identified in paragraph 28a, "To increase demand-driven statistical training and improve its impact on capacity building in the member States, enabling them to produce and disseminate official statistics of good quality in accordance with the established international statistical standards"
Singapore	It may be useful to also obtain feedback from the training providers on the possible training that they would be able to offer to enhance capacity. This is because the training providers may also be able to observe emerging training needs based on feedback from their training participants. The information from the training providers could become useful inputs in the coordination of statistical training.
Malaysia	It is appropriated.
CIS-STAT	Among the objectives for coordination of statistical training it would be desirable to stress the importance for Member-States of producing statistics in accordance with the international statistical standards
Indonesia	The main objective of WG-RCST is to build a better communication and coordination between training provider and training recipients, thus, training demand from statistical work will meet the capability of training provider
<b>2.3- Do you agree with the strategies for regional coordination of statistical activities?</b>	
	<b>Agree – 29; Disagree – 1; No Comment - 1</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
Samoa	The University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, offers courses on Official Statistics at three levels; certificate, diploma and degree. As a member of the WG-RCST, I will provide information from USP corresponding to Strategy 1, 2 and 3, and I shall send them to the secretary of the Working Group.
Armenia	It is important to avoid an overlapping in the trainings provided by different donors.
FAO	I disagree with para 33 (strategy 2). The TNAS should be sent to all NSS players producing/dissemination statistics, not just to NSO. All stakeholders should be aware of the TNAS and its implications.

TURKISTAT	<p>Paragraph 33, Strategy 2:): For identification of training gaps, it is stated that the TNAS questionnaire can serve as the basis for developing a tool for a coordinated assessment to obtain information on levels of skills, areas for training and language used in training, as well as the tools recommended for assessment of training needs (Paragraphs 67-70).</p> <p>Collecting the necessary information for training needs through survey questionnaires is a way for identification of training gaps. But as known, identification of training gaps/training need analysis necessitates a multi-dimensional approach (performance management, organizational, task and individual level analysis). Thus, more comprehensive information/recommended methods should be included in the report.</p>
Timor-Leste	<p>See earlier comment. The language that the training will be delivered is an important consideration. The strategies recognise the reality that coordination can realistically only be “light touch”, more about cooperation and collaboration. Systematic and organized sharing of information will be helpful to NSIs</p>
UK-DFID	<p>Common understanding, expectation and delivery of training needs are crucial at country and regional level. The platform for sharing information about training activities should be centrally maintained – it could also be used to gather feedback from course participants. A standard set of core skills are important as is the use of established and successful training initiatives.</p>
ILO	<p>We suggest including the following strategy (this could alternatively be included in the objectives for coordination of statistical training):</p> <p>Strategy 7. A better monitoring of training activities provided by development partners and Member States: where we started from, what progress made/ where we are, what are the remaining gaps, and what are the remaining resources gaps; and monitoring the impact of statistical training activities on statistical production . As part of this overall evaluation of the monitoring of training activities, there should be an attempt to document not just the quantity but also the quality of training provided as assessed by the trainees; such information should be shared with stakeholders in a database. (This may be hard to evaluate, depending on the type of training received. Improved quality may be harder to document for example.)</p>
Singapore	<p>To ensure the currency of the information on statistical training that are being shared, the core skills framework (CSF) and classification of statistical activities (CSA) could be reviewed at suitable intervals, and the information that are classified according to CSF and CSA be updated accordingly thereafter. One other possible strategy would be to assess the effectiveness of the coordination of statistical training so as to fine-tune the mechanism.</p>
Eurostat	<p>Eurostat takes note of ESCAP's interest to develop a tool for coordinated assessment of training gaps. Eurostat will explore whether there is any possibility to further test the ASTRA tool in the region during 2013.</p>

SESRIC	“Strategy 2: Facilitating identification of training gaps at the regional level through a coordinated regional assessment exercise among training providers” can be extended to include development of common tools to make systematic assessment to identify Statistical Training Needs alongside the SIAP TNAS questionnaire. Also identification and preparation of "Training Monitoring Indicators" with an aim to follow impact and success level of the trainings already implemented in order to guide the Advisory Body to be established for coordination of statistical trainings can be included.		
Malaysia	It may need to consider additional strategy, i.e.: Method of evaluation and assessment on the training.		
World Bank	Strategy overall makes sense. Again, I would encourage road testing this approach in a small number of countries first to get a sense of what is required and to fine tune the approach before rolling out the strategy more broadly.		
CIS-STAT	Among the strategies for regional coordination of statistical activities it would be desirable also to include such a strategy as assessment of the results of training activities with special attention to the assessment of the impact of training on statistical production		
Indonesia	Strategy 1: The term of Common “language” from CSF and CSA should be clear, thus there will be no miss-perception in the region. Strategy 2: Training Need Analysis (TNA) should combine the on-going and completed training activities in NSOs		
<b>2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-a) on Creating an “advisory body” for coordination of statistical training?</b>		<b>(Agree – 30;</b>	<b>(No Comment - 1)</b>
a) Recommendation 4b on the nature of the advisory body?		<b>(Agree - 26 ;</b>	<b>Disagree - 2;</b> <b>No Comment - 3)</b>
b) Recommendation 4c on the terms of reference for the advisory body?		<b>Agree - 26;</b>	<b>Disagree - 1;</b> <b>No Comment - 4)</b>
c) Recommendation 4d on the secretariat of the advisory body?		<b>(Agree – 29;</b>	<b>No Comment - 2)</b>
<b>2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-a) on Creating an “advisory body” for coordination of statistical training?</b>			
<b>Comments</b>			
FAO	Since the SIAP governing council only involves NSO representatives, it has a partial view of the training needs by other NSS stakeholders		
UNIDO	Is it possible for advisory body to mobilize the funds, how?		

UK	Slight concern over the capacity of SIAP possibly serving as advisory body and secretariat despite their existing presence and influence in the region. The advisory body should also monitor the performance of training providers within the regional network so that standards are maintained.
Russian Federation	SIAP being key training facility in the region has enough capacity and responsibility to organize such work in efficient manner.
Sri Lanka	We don't understand the sentence in paragraph 25, 'Likewise training provided in relation to the conduct of specific statistical activities (e.g. 2010 Census of population & housing; 2009 Demographic & Health Survey) is not considered as statistical training ". Therefore please consider that we agree excluding the sentence as quoted above.
Singapore	Agree in general, the recommendations, except for paragraph 43(b)(iii), which need not specifically state the strengthening of "agricultural and rural statistics" as there could be other areas of statistics that countries are interested in, beside these two areas.
Indonesia	Advisory body member could be the Head of the STI in NSOs.
ILO	Please see our previous comment regarding the advisory body under section 1.2.
World Bank	Suggest the goal should be to facilitate coordination rather than be the coordinating mechanism (at least until the proof of concept phase via country pilots is completed).

Japan	<p>As for a coordination of statistical training, it is more realistic to begin with sharing the information about the training needs of each country for external training providers, including international organizations, and about the resources for the conducting of training. External training providers and donor agencies offering funds can provide this to the countries in the region.</p> <p>For this purpose, it is necessary to give further consideration to the specific training needs of each country for the external training providers and the donor agencies. This would include required training subjects, working language, etc. and suitable methods to figure out and evaluate resources, such as training courses, training lecturers, and training materials which they can offer to the countries. Moreover, in order to foster and promote collaborative partnerships among these stakeholders, it is also necessary to consider suitable methods to establish and maintain a network among them.</p> <p>As for these considerations, it is efficient and effective to inquire or study in an environment where the representatives of the donor agencies who are taking charge of training and of external training providers who provide training courses to the countries can participate and discuss freely as members of the advisory body.</p> <p>In fact, unless the stakeholders who have specific information on the process and the timing in determining the related budget, training courses to be conducted, course contents, and number of participants to be accepted come together and exchange necessary information and their opinions as well as manage to coordinate the statistical training consensually, I think that it would be extremely hard to produce specific results.</p> <p>For this reason, as an advisory body, the friends of chair or the steering group would be suitable. However, the representatives of an international organization are not included in the members of the SIAP Governing Council, and in addition, the members are not limited to the person in charge of training. Moreover, since the SIAP Governing Council shall review managing issues of SIAP at large, it is not suitable as an advisory body of the statistical training coordination.</p>
<b>2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-b) on creating a technical Expert Group on classification of skills of statistical personnel?</b>	
	<b>Agree – 27;      Disagree – 2;      No Comment - 2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
UK-DFID	Not sure if this group is necessary when SIAP and UNECE already have ownership of the core skills frameworks.
ILO	It would be best to closely follow what UNECE has developed in this regard so as to avoid multiple classifications.
Timor-Leste	If feasible, a classification of skills of statistical personnel will be helpful to NSIs in their human resources management....

Singapore	This will provide a common framework to assess the varying capabilities of statistical personnel and facilitate the coordination of more relevant and effective regional or sub-regional training initiatives.
SESRIC	This is one of the difficult and ambiguous issues that has to be worked in detail by considering member country practices in the employment of the staff in the statistical sector.
Malaysia	To create the classification may not difficult. However , it does not necessary workable during the implementation since many factors that are heterogeneous.
World Bank	Again, the body should facilitate coordination rather than be the mechanism at this stage for the project.
CIS-STAT	It would be desirable to use the experience of the UNECE with the classification of statistical activities
Indonesia	A technical expert group should consist of experts from NSOs, International agencies and University, but bear in mind that member of technical expert group should have knowledge and experience in the business process of statistics and official statistics
<b>2.4- Do you agree with recommendation 4a-b) that SIAP maintains and shares databases of regional technical cooperation initiatives on statistical training and capacity building?</b>	
	<b>Agree - 31</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
UNIDO	Database on the number of training provided by SIAP should be compatible to the classification of skills made by EG.
UK-DFID	Does this recommendation also imply that SIAP will be responsible for the development of the “commonly accessible platform” described at para 34?
ILO	Unless this is already the case (it is not clearly indicated in the proposals) we suggest for SIAP to look at ways of maintaining a register of all statistical training initiatives (from development partners as well as Member States), along with the number of technical staff involved/ trained per subject, staff host institution/ origin and country, and training provider(s). An evaluation of the quality of the training prepared by the training beneficiaries should also be included in the register.
PARIS21	We encourage SIAP to draw on the information gathered in the PRESS (see paragraphs 63 through 66 of document E/ESCAP/CST(3)/12 when preparing the databases on technical cooperation initiatives on statistical training.

SESRIC	This may create a significant work load for SIAP, therefore Working Group should also identify means and mechanisms to be used in activating and maintaining such a database.
Malaysia	This databases need to be consistently update and make available to members' countries.
World Bank	This is a great way to facilitate coordination.
CIS-STAT	Maintaining and sharing by SIAP of databases of regional technical cooperation initiatives on statistical training and capacity building would be very useful especially with the inclusion into databases of all statistical training activities and the evaluation of the quality of the training
Indonesia	Databases should be attached in SIAP web site and updated regularly
<b>Section 2: Further comments</b>	
Samoa	While the Working Group has fully agreed that, on the job training of which to me is the same as hands-on-training, is outside the scope of Statistical Training, these practical form of trainings are extremely vital to the Pacific Region. This is much very true in the case of small NSOs; 2 to 6 staff members.
Indonesia	Distance learning and e-learning is a necessity in line with advances in technology, but we need to be really careful in determining the mechanisms and technologies used. BPS-Statistics Indonesia this year started to conduct Distance Learning for medium and advanced level on statistical training. BPS-Statistics Indonesia also developed Training Information System which will be implement in 2013. SIAP, as the secretariat of WG-RCST including the host of the database, should develop a Regional Training Information System which integrates the data base of training and recipient
World Bank	I would strive to keep the assessment questionnaire light – or at least stratify the respondents based on how active they are in providing training in the region.

**Section 3: Other General Comments**

Armenia	It would be nice to provide trainings for the stakeholders, line ministries from the view point of importance to professionally use statistical indicators and form good quality administrative sources of information.
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Hong Kong, China	<p>Regarding Table 1 on “Regional Coordination of Statistical Training – Involving Stakeholders” (under para 15 of the “Report of the Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Training”), details on the basis and criteria used for classifying stakeholders are not mentioned. In the case of Hong Kong, there is no statistical training institution (STI) of its own. Yet, Hong Kong is classified as “training-deficient NSS with its own STI”. Given that Hong Kong has been attending training activities organised by such international agencies as SIAP and IMF, it is more appropriate to classify Hong Kong similar to Macao and Singapore, i.e. training-deficient NSS without STI.</p> <p>C&amp;SD did jointly organise some statistical training courses with SIAP in Hong Kong in the past. Nonetheless, the role of C&amp;SD was only confined to making local administrative and logistic arrangements (e.g. provision of training venues and facilities, as well as administrative support).</p>
FS Micronesia	<p>I wish to commend the work of the Working Group. Coordination of the capacity building initiatives is so critical. As a small NSOs, we require a whole range types of statistical trainings but often times, we receive invitations on similar training from different agencies and becomes difficult to pick and choose. I wish to encourage the Working Group to regularly update the NSOs on their meetings and work because for some of us we don’t have funds to attend meetings of ESCAP and the Commission on Statistics hence we are not informed or yet familiar with what is happening. But then, all of a sudden, we are bombarded with surveys we often question their basis due to our lack of knowledge on their genesis.</p>
ILO	<p>In general we have a feeling that the link between statistical training and Member States obligations “to produce and disseminate official statistics of good quality in accordance with the established international statistical standards“ is not adequately emphasized in the report and in the recommendations of the WG-RCST. The importance of the Member States and key national data users to analyse and disseminate available statistical information (in line with international standards) should also be emphasized.</p>
Timor-Leste	<p>Strongly agree that the responsibility of training of statistical staff must be borne primarily by countries (paragraph 11). External training is expensive, particularly the high opportunity cost of staff absences abroad. This fact, coupled with the language issue mentioned in comments above, suggests that external training can only ever be seen as filling a niche requirement for specialised training of statistical staff who already have good basic statistical competencies</p>
Mongolia	<p>The National Statistical Office of Mongolia are aiming to establish a national statistical training centre with the view of retraining and giving the statistical staff in Mongolian national statistical system advanced and specialized training and enhancing their capability. It would be beneficial to help training-deficient NSSs without STI establish training institutions of their own and developing training programme design and building the capability of their trainers and implementing the best practices of those countries with higher statistical development or self-sufficient NSSs and international organizations such as IMF</p>



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Malaysia	This document seems has successfully fulfilled the mandate given to WG-RCST). Any shortcoming always can be addressed during the initial implementation. Despite that, the needs of national stakeholders which are becoming more dynamic and multifaceted warranted for a regular assessment on the existing training and proceed with forward looking environment.
Indonesia	STI-BPS as a provider of regular statistical training in Indonesia has experienced in conducting regional trainings in collaboration with SIAP (i.e. Poverty Measurement, Demography Analysis). STI-BPS in bilateral relationship also has conducted trainings for NSO of Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. Furthermore, BPS has established networking relationship over the region, especially with Australian Bureau of Statistics. Many courses have been delivered in Indonesia and Australia, and several topics are transferred to NSOs who visited BPS for a comparative study visit, i.e. NSO of Cambodia, NSO of Vietnam, NSO of Sri Lanka, even NSOs from some African Countries. Hence, BPS-Statistics Indonesia will support WG-RCST to enhance quality, capability, and competence of statistical work over the region in Asia and the Pacific

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