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

Eighth session

Bangkok and online, 23–25 August 2022

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Regional initiatives and partnerships for strengthening national statistical systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat

Reports on the 6th and 7th meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific**

Summary

In September 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics established the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (the Network), with a mandate to act as a facilitator of information-sharing and of coordination among statistical training institutes in the region.

The 6th meeting of the Network was held online on 2 December 2020. The members of the Network stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives to other thematic areas of statistics and suggested that accreditation of courses and certification of experts should be carried out internally at an initial stage and would consider the need for its expansion after thorough assessment.

The 7th meeting of the Network was held online on 7 December 2021. For gender statistics, the accreditation process for training conducted at the national level would have to be considered and that would necessitate further discussion among the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and other partners to ensure the same quality standards are applied at that level. For the purpose of further prioritizing regional trainings in environment statistics, the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific were to consider renaming and expanding the focus of the subgroup of economic statistics as well as the possibility to set an additional subgroup to cover environment statistics.

The Committee may wish to take note of the present report.

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** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

I. Background

1. In September 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics established the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (the Network), with a mandate to act as a facilitator of information-sharing and of coordination among statistical training institutes in the region. Since then, the Network has been in touch with its members through its meetings to plan and implement activities to meet its mandate.

2. The 4th meeting of the Network was held in Chiba, Japan, on 12 September 2018. During this meeting, the Network approved the terms of reference of the subgroup on gender statistics, reviewed the possible development of the training needs assessment survey and discussed the modality of accreditation of training on official statistics.

3. The 5th meeting of the Network was held in Chiba, Japan, on 10 December 2019. Reports on the activities of the subgroup on gender statistics as well as that of the subgroup on economic statistics were considered by the Network. The Network recommended the creation of a small group to initiate discussion on accreditation and standardization of the training curriculum in the subgroup on gender statistics. Likewise, the Network supported the 2020–2024 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

II. 6th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

A. Decision and recommendations of the meeting

4. The members of the Network stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives into other thematic areas of statistics and suggested that accreditation of courses and certification of experts should be carried out internally at an initial stage and would then consider the need for its expansion after thorough assessment.

5. Members of the Network shared their approaches to the evaluation of their training programs and how they utilized the results of these evaluations. The members agreed to further improve evaluation of training in their respective countries.

6. The members of the Network and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also agreed to share materials, textbooks, and other relevant information for the development of statistical training.

B. Summary of proceedings

1. Session 1: Report of the subgroup on gender statistics

7. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the secretariat of the subgroup on gender statistics training, reported activities of the subgroup on gender statistics training in 2020 and highlighted activities planned for 2021. As a follow up to the discussion during the previous Network meeting on accreditation and certification of trainings, UN-Women presented how the accreditation and certification scheme would be implemented in future gender statistics trainings.

8. United Nations Statistics Division asked UN-Women how the subgroup intended to implement the accreditation and certification in future training programmes and whether the accreditation and certification scheme would involve outside or third-party accreditation and certification services. UN-Women responded that participants of a training program would be certified jointly by UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific if they attended all the sessions of the training programme and successfully completed the final test. As agreed in the previous Network meeting, the certification and accreditation system would be introduced initially through an internal process. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also agreed that the system of accreditation and certification should be initially carried out jointly by UN-Women and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and they would consider the need for third party certification afterwards.

2. Session 2: Report of the subgroup on economic statistics

9. The Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported recent activities of the subgroup on economic statistics training and provided an overview of the mandate of the subgroup and list of activities conducted by the subgroup. In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, virtual training programmes for trainers were conducted and an e-learning course on labour accounts was being jointly developed with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

3. Session 3: Activities in Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

10. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific presented the activities of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training in 2020 and its working methods and work streams. Major activities in 2020 were focused on an online gateway and e-learning community of practice, statistical literacy and addressing needs of national statistical offices. The active participation of the Network members is being encouraged in this endeavour.

4. Session 4: Method of evaluation of training courses by national statistical training institutes

11. There was sharing among the members of the Network as they explained the methodology adopted for evaluation of the training programs they organized and how they utilized the results of the evaluations. Their presentations included a brief description of their training programs, adopted methodologies and instruments for evaluation as well as ways in presenting results of evaluations. China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea did their presentations and with these presentations, the members of the Network agreed to further improve evaluation of training in their respective countries.

5. Session 5: Other matters

12. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific presented the status on the development of database of training information and requested members to provide inputs and update the training information in the database.

13. The members of the Network and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific agreed to share materials, textbooks, and other relevant information for the development of statistical training.

14. The 7th Network meeting was planned for the week beginning 13 December 2021 in Bangkok.

C. Organization of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

15. The 6th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was held online on 2 December 2020.

16. The Chair of the Network, Ms. Zita Albacea officially opened the 6th meeting of the Network.

2. Attendance

17. The meeting was attended by 53 participants from: Azerbaijan, China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Statistics Division, UN-Women, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific as well as the Chair of the Network.

3. Adoption of the agenda

18. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Opening;

Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics;

Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics;

Session 3: Activities in Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

Session 4: Method of evaluation of training courses by national statistical training institutes;

Session 5: Other business; and

Closing.

III. 7th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

A. Decision and recommendations of the meeting

19. For gender statistics, the accreditation process for training conducted at the national level would have to be considered and that would necessitate further discussion with UN-Women, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and other partners to ensure that the same quality standards are applied at that level.

20. In order to prioritize regional trainings in environment statistics, ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific considered renaming and expanding the focus of the subgroup of economic statistics as well as the possibility of setting up an additional subgroup to cover environment statistics.

21. The Network approved the proposal of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to transfer the contents of the database of training information to a Microsoft Excel file, which is to be shared with member States of the Network for easy access and for them to add information if needed.

B. Summary of proceedings

1. Session 1: Report of the subgroup on gender statistics

22. UN-Women reported that all of the activities outlined in the subgroup's terms of reference for delivery in 2020 and 2021 had been successfully completed, hence that the subgroup had not convened any recent meetings. The completed activities and deliverables included: setting up a repository of training experts on gender statistics; developing a training curriculum on gender statistics; setting up an accreditation process; and promoting the implementation of training on gender statistics across the region. UN-Women announced the availability of the gender statistics curriculum online, highlighting the efforts at operationalizing the materials through the conduct of a virtual training of trainers for members of the subgroup and subsequent conversion of the training materials from the training of trainers into e-learning courses. Since the launch of the gender statistics training curriculum, several countries, training institutes and universities have either used or adapted the resources. The following training offerings were proposed for 2022: integrating gender statistics in other policy areas and courses; virtual training for the Pacific island countries and territories based on the gender training curriculum; and training on Time Use Surveys for the Asia-Pacific region. The delivery of face-to-face training will also be explored, provided that travel restrictions are lifted, in 2022.

23. Maldives requested guidance on the approach to be used for accreditation of trainees who complete approved courses based on the gender statistics curriculum, at the national level. In response, UN-Women indicated that, at present, accreditation was offered only to trainers and experts who received training at the regional level, and that the accreditation process for training conducted at the national level would have to be considered and that would necessitate further discussion with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and other partners to ensure the same quality standards are applied at that level.

2. Session 2: Report of the subgroup on economic statistics

24. ESCAP Statistics Division reported on the main activities and achievements of the subgroup on economic statistics, noting the goals and deliverables set for 2021 were delivered within the year. The main outputs included a basic training package on economic statistics, which has been integrated in the training offerings available from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; and a series of training of trainers. ESCAP Statistics Division emphasized the increased reliance on e-learning and highlighted the regional and national training offerings, completed in 2021, in the areas of labour accounts, Sustainable Development Goal 9 on industry, statistical business registers, National Accounts and International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities among others. As it relates to

planned activities, ESCAP Statistics Division mentioned the effort is underway to develop a new course on the impact of COVID-19 on National Accounts as well as research topics for the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2025. ESCAP Statistics Division noted the intention of the subgroup to continue using available electronic mediums such as webinars and communities of practice to advance knowledge exchange and its plans to complement the existing short-term courses with longer-term programmes. ESCAP Statistics Division concluded by eliciting feedback from the Network on a series of pointed questions on training and knowledge exchange.

25. The Chair emphasized the strengths and weaknesses of the shift to online and virtual training and made a strong recommendation for the use of a blended approach for the delivery of future training, citing its appropriateness for training and knowledge sharing.

26. Lao People's Democratic Republic recommended expanding the training areas to include environment statistics. It was acknowledged that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific has made significant progress in offering a range of courses in environment statistics, however the sustained interest and limited capacity of national statistical offices further justified prioritizing regional trainings in that area. ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific were to consider renaming and expanding the focus of the subgroup of economic statistics as well as the possibility to set an additional subgroup to cover environment statistics.

3. Session 3: Progress of the database of training information

27. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific put forward a proposal for the storage and maintenance of the database of training information, which was developed in 2019 through funding and technical support from the Government of Japan. The proposal tabled by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific entailed to transfer the database content to a Microsoft Excel and share the Excel file with member States of the Network for easier access. Likewise, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific requested member States to continue adding information in the Excel file. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also proposed to discontinue managing the database and, instead, proposed to upload the Excel file on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific website, where it could be easily accessed by all members of the Network.

28. Members of the Network endorsed the proposal presented by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the future of the existing database.

4. Session 4: Report from countries on challenges of COVID-19 to training and how to overcome them

29. Under this agenda item, member States: China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand reported on challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and shared their national experiences with pursuing or offering national training towards overcoming those challenges.

30. In summary, the Chair noted that there were challenges which were handled well by the national training centres with an extended reach, however, some problems are still to be resolved such as dealing with fewer social interactions, fewer hands-on exercises and weak internet access.

5. Session 5: Other matters

31. The Network noted that the 8th meeting of the Network will be held in the week beginning 12 December 2022.

C. Organization of the meeting**1. Opening of the meeting**

32. The 7th meeting of the Network was held online on 7 December 2021.

33. The Chair of the Network, Ms. Zita Albacea officially opened the 7th meeting of the Network.

2. Attendance

34. The meeting was attended by 50 participants from: China, Georgia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, FAO, International Labour Organization (ILO), Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the United Nations Statistics Division, UN-Women, ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific as well as the Chair of the Network.

3. Adoption of the agenda

35. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Opening;

Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics;

Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics;

Session 3: Progress of the database of training information;

Session 4: Report from countries on challenges of COVID-19 to training and how to overcome them;

Session 5: Other business; and

Closing.

Annex I

Agenda of the 6th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Tokyo Time</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
14:00-14:10	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome message from the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific • Welcome message from the Chair of the Network • Adoption of the Agenda 	Mr. Ashish Kumar Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea Chair of the Network
14:10-14:45	Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of activities in 2020 • Accreditation and standardization of training curriculum • Priority activities for 2021 pertaining to gender statistics • Perspective of long-term plan for capacity building on gender statistics 	Ms. Sara Duerto Valero Statistics Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women
14:45-15:05	Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of activities and perspective 	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP
15:05-15:15	Session 3: Activities in Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the progress 	Mr. Ashish Kumar Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Break

<i>Tokyo Time</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: Method of evaluation of training courses by national statistical training institutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from national statistical training institutions on methodology of evaluation of training programmes which may include (i) national training programmes, (ii) international training programmes and (iii) training programmes conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific • Description of present programme evaluation methodology • Is it measuring output, outcome and impact of the training programmes? • Issues faced in evaluation and suggestions • The shared reports and discussion would give an opportunity to reflect on the methodology adopted and would contribute to development of guidance document on methodology of evaluation by Global Network of Institution for Statistical Training (GIST). 	<p>Ms. Song Shaoying Deputy Director-General, Statistical Education and Training Center of the National Bureau of Statistics of China</p> <p>Ms. Shailja Sharma Director General, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, India</p> <p>Ms. Eni Lestariningsih Chief of Education and Training Centre, BPS Statistics Indonesia</p> <p>Mr. Tsumura Akira Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan</p> <p>Mr. Mohd Ridauddin Masud Director of the Malaysia Statistics Training Institute</p> <p>Mr. Bongsu Choi Deputy-Dierctor, Statistics Korea</p> <p>Mr. Ashkan Shabbak Head, Statistical Research and Training Centre, Statistical Centre of Iran</p>
16:30-16:50	<p>Session 5: Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of database of training information • The date and venue of the seventh session of the Network • Others 	<p>Mr. Makoto Shimizu Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</p>
16:50-16:55	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing message 	<p>Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea Chair of the Network</p>

Annex II

Agenda of the 7th meeting of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Tokyo Time</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
14:00-14:10	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome message from the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Welcome message from the Chair of the Network Adoption of the Agenda 	Ms. Shailja Sharma Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea Chair of the Network
14:10-14:40	Session 1: Report from the subgroup on gender statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of activities and perspectives 	Ms. Sara Duerto Valero Statistics Specialist, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Women
14:40-15:00	Session 2: Report from the subgroup on economic statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of activities and perspectives 	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP
15:00-15:15	Session 3: Progress of the database of training information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the progress and perspective 	Mr. Makoto Shimizu Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
15:15-15:50	Session 4: Report from countries on challenges of COVID-19 to training and how to overcome them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing practices 2 minute intervention per member state 	Ms. Song Shaoying Deputy-Director-General, Statistical Education and Training Center, National Bureau of Statistics of China Ms. R. Savithri Additional Director General, National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India Ms. Orié Hirano Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

<i>Tokyo Time</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
		Mr. Mohd Ridauddin Masud Director of Malaysia Statistical Training Institute
		Ms. Josefina Almeda Executive Director III/Head of Agency, Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute
		Ms. Jeongran Kim Division Director, Training Planning Division, Statistics Training Institute, Statistics Korea
		Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat Director of Statistical Forecasting Division, National Statistical Office, Thailand
		Mr. Ashkan Shabbak Head of Statistical Research and Training Centre, Statistical Centre of Iran
15:50-15:55	Session 5: Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date and venue of the eighth session of the Network Others 	Mr. Makoto Shimizu Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
15:55-16:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing message 	Ms. Zita Villa Juan Albacea Chair of the Network