

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-first session

Bangkok, 25-29 May 2015

Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda^{*}

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure
of the Commission, including the work of the regional
institutions: statistics**

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its tenth session^{}**

Summary

At its tenth session, the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific commended the Institute for its outstanding accomplishments and results and its progress in achieving its programme of work for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2014. Through 16 courses/workshops, 681 government statisticians and ministry officials from 51 countries and their respective institutions improved the quality of statistical outputs and increased their use for development planning, policy formulation and the monitoring of progress in development goals. The Council noted the increased use of Internet-based training through e-learning and blended learning courses and recommended that the Institute further expand such training courses in cooperation with training partners in the region.

The Council endorsed the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2015, noting that it is implementing the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan that it had endorsed at its interim session in July 2014. It emphasized the importance of continued capacity-building for producing and enhancing the quality of basic statistics in the national statistical systems of developing countries. It also noted the need to provide training on modernizing statistical production and services, including on the best use of information and communications technology in official statistics. Bearing in mind the recommendations of the preparatory expert group meeting on statistics and data for the post-2015 development agenda held immediately prior to the session, the Council advised the Institute to ensure that its training activities respond to the expected increased demand for statistics in monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015 and to include topics related to, inter alia, big data and environmental accounting and statistics.

The Council emphasized the importance of the function of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific in strengthening partnerships and improving coordination in statistical capacity-building in the region and expressed support for the programme of work of the Network. It also expressed support for the proposed programme of work for 2015 of the training component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and noted with satisfaction the close cooperation among the regional implementing partners, the Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank.

^{*} E/ESCAP/71/L.1/Rev.1.

^{**} The present report is being issued without formal editing. It was submitted late owing to the need to incorporate the views and comments of Governing Council members and session participants.

In relation to the ongoing review of the Commission's conference structure, including governance of the Institute, the Council strongly reiterated the recommendation it had made at its eighth session, with which the Committee on Statistics had expressed its agreement at its third session, that the current arrangements whereby the Institute reports directly to the Commission be retained and that additional layers should not be added.

The Council acknowledged with deep appreciation the high level of support to the Institute provided by the host Government (Japan) through cash and in-kind contributions and expressed the crucial importance of maintaining such support.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Recommendations and decisions

1. Programme of work

1. The Governing Council commends SIAP for its outstanding accomplishments and results in the reporting period and its progress in achieving its programme of work for 2014.

2. The Governing Council appreciates the results-based monitoring of the work programme of SIAP and the efforts made by SIAP to improve measurements of the impact of its training programmes. The Council recommends including measuring the long term impact of its work on statistical capacity in the region, including by documenting the impact of training received by alumni of the SIAP-JICA residential courses.

3. The Council notes with satisfaction the expanded capacity to accommodate continuing demand for e-learning on the system of national accounts as a result of collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Given that the host government Japan as part of its in-kind contribution will provide new IT facilities including a dedicated server for e-learning, the Council recommends that SIAP continue to expand its use of internet-based training.

4. The Council stresses the importance of the programme on modernizing national statistical systems and the relevance of its focus on innovative and responsive leadership and management of national statistical offices. It recommends that SIAP strengthen this programme.

5. The Governing Council reiterates the importance of research-based training to build capacity of statistical offices to carry out applied methodological research to improve their statistical processes. The Council notes the initiative of SIAP in designing a cost-effective programme through a blended learning approach and advises SIAP to consider measures such as engaging experts from advanced countries and international organizations to serve as research advisors, and exploring the use of ICT-enabled modalities such as the use of Skype and WebEx.

6. The Council notes the strong interest of member States in participating in the SIAP-JICA residential courses. Considering the conditions that define the scope of countries that may avail of JICA fellowships that fund participation in the courses and noting that the course is open to all member States, the Council encourages interested member States to seek alternative sources of funding.

7. The Council notes importance of drawing on and making best use of expertise from outside Asia and the Pacific, consistent with SIAP's role in coordinating statistical capacity development especially through training, and recommends that SIAP explore cost-effective ways of bringing in such expertise in its programmes.

8. The Council highlights the importance of consultation mechanisms for countries looking for support for capacity building, ranging from bilateral consultations to formal and informal support. The Council notes that various regional programmes on improving official statistics endorsed by the

Committee on Statistics have advisory and steering groups that have consultative functions and that ESCAP Statistics Division as secretariat to the groups has a role to play in facilitating the provision of such services.

2. Financial status and resource mobilization

9. The Governing Council recognizes that the significant financial and in-kind contributions from the Government of Japan are crucial to the capacity of SIAP to implement its 2015-2019 Strategic Plan. The Council requests member countries and statistics development partners to continue to make financial and in-kind contributions to support statistical capacity development through SIAP training. The Council expresses appreciation to the Director of SIAP for the efficient and effective management and administration of the resources of SIAP.

10. To further expand the clientele base as modality to supplement SIAP resources, the Governing Council recommends that SIAP should engage the ministries of finance, health, central banks, and education in its training programmes and seek guidance and assistance from the ESCAP secretariat in exploring opportunities for engaging the private sector.

3. SIAP 2015-2019 Strategic Plan and Work and financial plan for 2015

11. The Council endorses the programme of work and financial plan proposed by SIAP for 2015.

12. The Council emphasizes the importance of continued capability building for producing and enhancing the quality of basic statistics in national statistical systems of developing countries. Considering that the SIAP-JICA residential training courses focus on these areas, the Council encourages member States to give priority to these courses in the annual needs survey conducted by JICA.

13. The Governing Council notes the importance of providing training and related capacity-building support in the best use of ICT in modern statistical systems and recommends that SIAP see where this would best fit in its programme of work.

14. Bearing in mind that the discussions of the preparatory expert group meeting on Statistics and data for the post-2015 development agenda held prior to the Council session, the Council highlighted the expected increased demand for statistics in monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015, the Governing Council recommends that SIAP includes in its training activities topics related to, among other things, big data and environmental accounting and statistics.

15. In the design of training in the area of big data, the Governing Council endorsed the proposed plan for a regional technical seminar on challenges and issues in the use of big data for production of official statistics and suggested that it provide concrete examples of how big data (including administrative data) can be utilized in producing statistics in selected areas — for example, transport statistics, trade statistics or price statistics. The Council urged member States who have experience in the focus area of the seminar to provide experts and share their results.

16. Recognizing the importance of the Management Seminar for the Heads of Statistical Offices as a forum for sharing challenges and deliberating on solutions and good practices in leading and managing

statistical development, the Council recommends that SIAP engage Council members in organizing the seminar.

17. The Council appreciates the relevance of training on statistical quality management and suggested that SIAP considers topics on the quality of administrative data and the quality of data from satellite images, mobile phones, and scanner data in future courses.

18. The Council expresses appreciation for the established cost-sharing arrangements between SIAP and the statistical training institutes of India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, endorses expanding the practice and urges other member States to collaborate with SIAP through this modality.

19. The Council encourages SIAP to continue facilitating South-South cooperation in building statistical capacity, given the successful conduct of training provided to the Timor-Leste statistical system through South-South cooperation with Indonesia and the Philippines.

20. In recognizing that the demands for training in a wide range of topics in the region can only be effectively met through collaboration among training providers, the Council welcomes the expressions of strong interest by ILO, ITU, ADB, SESRIC and UNFPA in working with SIAP on delivering training in areas such as ICT household statistics, analysis of census and household survey data and the new recommendations on labour and employment statistics.

4. Network for Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific

21. The Council notes with satisfaction the establishment of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific with 22 member States and development partners as founding members and expresses appreciation to Australia for agreeing to Chair the Network.

22. The Council further notes the importance of the function of the Network in strengthening partnerships and improving coordination in statistical capacity building in the region and expresses support for the work programme of the Network. The Council appreciates the statement of support to SIAP of the government of Japan in carrying out its role as secretariat to the Network and urges member States and statistics development partners to support the implementation of the work programme of the Network, including through the provision of resources.

5. Training component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

23. The Governing Council emphasizes the importance of improving agricultural and rural statistics of countries in the region and notes with appreciation the effective collaboration among the implementing partners (ADB, FAO and ESCAP) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

24. The Council recommends stronger collaboration between SIAP and FAO in support of SIAP's role in coordinating training towards sustainable capacity development in agricultural and rural statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

6. Review of Conference Structure of ESCAP and Reporting Line of SIAP

25. Noting that the Commission through Resolution 69/1 has decided to review the conference structure of Commission and has requested the ESCAP Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its 71st session a report to include, among others, recommendations on reforming the governance structure of the regional institutions and their integration within the secretariat's work programme, the Council reiterates its recommendation at its eighth session (E/ESCAP69/14) that "the current arrangements for reporting to the Commission be retained and that additional layers should not be added". The Council also reiterated its view expressed in the abovementioned report that "the Council and the Committee on Statistics were already coordinating well, and that a change in the reporting line of the Governing Council could have the adverse effect of lowering the level in governments to which statistical training priorities were reported".

26. In reiterating the above-mentioned recommendation, the Council Council calls attention to the third session of the Committee on Statistics whereby, in reviewing the functioning of the Committee, stated that (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/17): "The Committee recognized its important role in providing substantive direction to the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The current reporting arrangements, whereby the Governing Council of the Institute reports directly to the Commission, were considered the best modality for both the Committee and the Governing Council. The Committee recommended that the Commission maintain the current reporting arrangements regarding the Governing Council of SIAP".

7. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council

27. The Council decides that the eleventh session will be held in Chiba, Japan in December 2015.

B. Acknowledgements

28. The Governing Council acknowledges with deep appreciation the contributions and highest level of support to SIAP extended by the host Government, Japan, through cash and in-kind contributions made through its Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and JICA.

29. The Council also expresses appreciation to the following:

(a) Contributing members and associate members of ESCAP for their cash contributions to SIAP for 2014;

(b) Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) for the multiyear collaborative partnership under the Asia-pacific Regional Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (RAP);

(c) The Statistical Training Institute of Statistics Korea, National Statistical Systems Training Academy of India, the ESCAP Center for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, the Statistical Center of Iran, the Department of Statistics Malaysia, BPS Statistics Indonesia and Russian Federal State Statistics Service for hosting regional and sub-regional courses on a cost sharing basis;

(d) National experts who served as resource persons and guest lecturers for SIAP courses and their respective institutions: ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and other ministries, prefectural

governments, educational institutions and private companies in Japan; the Australian Statistics Bureau; BPS Statistics Indonesia and Philippines Statistical Research and Training institute;

(e) Regional and international statistics development partners that collaborated with SIAP in conducting its courses: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Eurostat; Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organization (ILO); Secretary of the Pacific Community (SPC); the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21); United Nations Statistics Division; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the University of the South Pacific (USP); and World Bank (WB).

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Matters arising from the ninth session of the Governing Council and its interim session

30. The Governing Council had before it a note by the secretariat on matters arising from the ninth session and interim session of the Governing Council (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/2). The Council noted with satisfaction the action taken and current status of the matters listed as reported by SIAP.

1. Financial status and resource mobilization

31. The Governing Council noted that SIAP expanded its clientele to include ministries of agriculture and universities and recommended that SIAP should engage the ministries of finance, health, central banks, and education in its training programmes. It also reiterated that SIAP should seek guidance and assistance from the ESCAP secretariat in exploring opportunities for engaging the private sector.

2. Programme of work and training strategies

32. The Governing Council noted that the process of selecting participants for Training-of-Trainers for Statistics Training Programme will be similar to other standard training courses where countries are invited to nominate candidates for the training courses. The Director informed the Council that one of the objectives of this programme is for certified participants to be available for SIAP training courses as well as training courses in their countries.

33. The Governing Council recognized the importance of trainees meeting minimum qualifications of a training course and urged national statistical offices to ensure that nominees from their respective countries go through an appropriate screening process.

34. For a cost-effective research-based training programme, the representative of Japan suggested that SIAP consider measures such as engaging experts from advanced countries and international organizations to serve as research advisers as well as use ICT-enabled modalities such as the use of Skype and WebEx.

B. Report of the Director of the Institute

35. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/3). The Director of SIAP highlighted key results and accomplishments, summarized

the financial and administrative status and drew attention to opportunities and challenges for SIAP outlined in the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan.

1. Key results and accomplishments: January – September 2014

36. The 2014 SIAP programme of work and financial plan aimed to strengthen capacity of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) to produce, disseminate and use official statistics; increase awareness and knowledge of NSSs on options for modernizing their statistical systems; and strengthen training capacity of NSSs.

37. The programme of work consisted of training courses and workshops on: fundamentals of official statistics; training resources development and coordination, including serving as secretariat for the Training Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and as training coordinator of the RAP; and the formulation of the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan.

38. Based on indicators on performance in the results framework of the 2010-2014 strategic plan, the Council commended SIAP for achieving the targeted results. The representatives of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Thailand expressed appreciation for the Institute's success in capacity building in the region.

(a) Implementation of training programmes and courses

39. The Institute conducted 16 training courses, workshops and seminars, which benefitted 681 government statisticians and ministry officials from 51 countries; 661 of them were from the ESCAP region. About 56 per cent of the 661 participants from ESCAP member countries in the courses came from South-East Asia, 20 per cent from South and South-West Asia and 12 per cent from Pacific. Overall, there were more female participants (393) than male (288). Gender ratio (expressed as the number of females per 100 males) was 136.

40. The SIAP training courses and workshops covered the following: fundamentals of official statistics (SIAP-JICA residential courses and country courses for Timor-Leste), vital statistics, labour statistics, national accounts compilation, agricultural statistics (under the training component of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (RAP)) and quality assurance frameworks. The courses ranged from basic to advanced and general to specialized levels, targeting different core skills levels of the participants.

41. In terms of training modalities, the courses consisted of four-months and six-week residential courses, 7 short courses (regional 2, sub-regional 3, country 2), 4 e-learning courses and 3 workshops. The Council was informed that by the end of 2014, 6 additional courses will have been conducted.

42. The 4-month residential course addressed the capacity development priorities for producing basic data particularly the MDG-related data needs. The 6-week course focused on building skills in understanding frameworks for analysis of disparities and data preparation and application of statistical methods for analyzing complex survey data.

43. The Governing Council noted the strong interest of member States in participating in the SIAP-JICA residential courses. The representative of Japan explained the conditions that define the scope of countries that may avail of JICA fellowships that fund participation in the courses. The Council

noted that the course is open to all member States and encouraged interested member States to seek alternative sources of funding.

44. Regional courses on production of vital statistics, labour migration statistics and gender statistics were completed—the latter two with SIAP as a contributing partner. In economic statistics, e-learning courses on SNA continued to be in demand, with 4 courses offered in 2014. Also, a collaboratively organized sub-regional course, with ESCAP Statistics Division, IMF and the Russian Federation, for Central Asian countries on GDP compilation was successfully completed.

45. The representative of Fiji noted that many junior statistical staff participated in the e-learning courses on SNA and they were very timely and useful for them to contribute to new requirements of GDP compilation. The representative of Mongolia requested SIAP to continue offering the e-learning training programme. The Director informed the Council that SIAP is continuously improving its e-Learning systems and training materials and embarked on a redesign of its platform and instructional model and templates. SIAP has also started a review of courses and course materials for purposes of improving the materials and for prioritizing topics for developing a suite of courses to be offered online.

46. Under the RAP training component regional workshops on sampling for agricultural surveys, policy analysis for food security and sustainable agriculture, and survey methods and integrated survey systems for agricultural and rural statistics were undertaken.

47. The Director emphasized that SIAP encourages and prioritizes demand-driven country courses since the country itself defines the training objectives and the expected contents of the courses. Since countries also co-finance their implementation, sometimes from other statistical development projects available to them, the training is cost-effective and highly relevant. In 2014, SIAP facilitated the conduct of a series of three country courses for Timor-Leste. The Director explained that the country courses were facilitated through South-South cooperation involving Indonesia and the Philippines. The representative of Timor-Leste expressed appreciation to SIAP for conducting the in-country training courses. The Council encouraged SIAP to continue facilitating South-South cooperation in building statistical capacity, given the successful conduct of these country training courses.

48. The Director informed the Council that preparations are underway for country courses for Afghanistan (funded by UNFPA-Afghanistan), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (funded by ESCAP), and Maldives (funded by World Bank) in 2015.

49. The Council was informed that five planned training activities were rescheduled to 2015. Staffing shortage due to non-completed recruitment process of three staff within the expected timeframe are the main reasons for the delays. This had an effect on the response time needed to plan, design and organize the activities. An annual advanced training course/workshop on SNA was cancelled in order to better redesign the course. The annual management seminar was also cancelled in view of the large number of statistics-related conferences and workshops around the scheduled period.

(b) Training resources development and coordination

50. The Director reported that, with resource support from the RAP, SIAP as secretariat, facilitated the organizational meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and the agricultural statistics sub-group of the Network resulted in the formulation of work programmes for the Network and the sub-group that will be submitted for endorsement at the 4th session of the Committee on Statistics. The work programme of the Network include an experts meeting on training needs assessments that was organized by SIAP in 2014.

51. As training coordinator for the RAP and member of its Regional Steering Committee, SIAP strengthened mechanisms for coordination in the design and delivery of training among training institutions, ministries of agriculture and universities in agricultural and rural statistics, preparation of syllabi and training materials and the conduct of systematic training needs assessments.

52. The Director expressed appreciation that a 3-fold increase in the number of participants to the e-learning courses in SNA was made possible with the collaboration of the Australian Bureau of Statistics who provided three experts to serve as instructors in each of 4 courses on SNA.

53. The representative of Russia appreciated the successful collaboration in the conduct of the sub-regional course on GDP compilation for Central Asian countries held in Astana, which was funded by the Russian Federation, and expressed that Russia would provide resources in 2015 to SIAP to support similar initiatives.

54. The representative of Viet Nam emphasized the importance of training in agricultural statistics for the country. The representative of FAO highlighted the important role of SIAP for training in agricultural statistics and noted that international partnerships strengthened the impact of FAO's training.

55. The Director noted with appreciation that SIAP continued to collaborate with statistical offices and training institutes with co-financing arrangements for regional courses (Statistics Korea, National Statistical Systems Training Academy of India, ESCAP Center for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, Statistical Center of Iran, Department of Statistics Malaysia, and BPS Statistics Indonesia) and facilitating South-South cooperation (among Philippines Statistical Research and Training Institute, BPS Statistics Indonesia and General Directorate-Timor Leste).

56. The Director apprised the Council of the partnerships with ADB, Eurostat, FAO, PARIS21, SPC, UNSD, UNECA, USP and WB through sharing substantive expertise and costs through joint organizing and conducting of training courses. Also, SIAP professional staff were active participants in statistical development and capacity-building initiatives of partners as resource persons, trainers, paper presenters and discussants in international and regional forums.

(c) 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan

57. The Director expressed strong appreciation of the strong support and contribution of the Friends of the Chair and the SIAP Governing Council in formulating and finalizing the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan.

2. Management and administration

(a) Human resources

58. The Director reported that, as of 30 September 2014, the Institute was operating with four professional staff and three support staff. Two professional staff posts and one support staff position are being filled. With substantial support from ESCAP-HRMS, SIAP staff received training on: STATA software package, writing skills, Integrated Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and the UN workplace and HIV orientation. SIAP also organized a three-day training for staff members on the use of Articulate software package for the improvement of e-learning materials.

59. The Governing Council noted that SIAP had engaged the expert services of 56 resource persons from various agencies and five consultants for 20 training courses to expand its human resource base. Also, 10 officials and staff of the cooperating agency of the host Government, MIC, extended support services that entailed the following: coordination with government ministries for securing resource persons; arranging field visits and official ceremonies for the SIAP courses conducted in Chiba, Japan; and maintenance of training facilities and equipment at the Institute offices. In addition, the Statistics Division and sub-regional offices of ESCAP, ESCAP Pacific Office and South & South-West Asia along with UNDP country offices provided administrative and logistical support services to SIAP.

(b) Financial resources as of 31 October 2014

60. The Director summarized the financial status of SIAP as of 31 October 2014,¹ explaining that SIAP had a fund balance of \$2,561,980 — calculated from total income (voluntary cash contributions of member States to SIAP plus contributions from technical cooperation projects plus interest) of \$517,600, less expenditure of \$843,381 plus the fund balance as of 1 January 2014 of \$3,405,361.

61. Total cash contributions received from ESCAP member States, as of 31 October, amounted to \$296,205.²

62. In 2014, in addition to 2013 unspent balance and interested earned in the amount of US\$609,468, SIAP received US\$213,714 to undertake activities for the planned training activities for 2014 of the RAP.

63. The Director noted that in-kind contributions, namely training facilities and supplies, costs of travel, accommodation and living expenses of participants and resource persons, and costs of staff time, accounted for a large share of programme costs. During the reporting period, the host Government, five NSOs of ESCAP member States, seven regional and international agencies, including ESCAP divisions and subregional offices and United Nations agencies, and two universities and organizations contributed in-kind to the delivery of the work programme of SIAP.

3. Opportunities and challenges

64. In developing the SIAP 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, SIAP recognized that the main challenge facing statistical systems in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific over the next 10 years will be the demand for better and

¹ Annexes II and III provide an updated financial statement as of 31 December 2014.

² Annex IV provides information on voluntary cash contributions as of 31 December 2014.

new data and quicker and more efficient ways to produce and disseminate statistics, in light of the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, there continues to be lack of capacity to produce even some of the most basic data in many developing statistical systems.

65. In the new Plan, SIAP set four institutional goals that define the dimensions on which it will be judged: excellence in providing training; excellence in training resources; strengthened engagement with stakeholders; and excellence in institutional stewardship. Achieving high quality results in light of new areas for statistical development and the expanded role of targeted training as a means of implementation is thus a challenge and an opportunity for SIAP towards meeting its goals.

66. The Plan identifies the following main challenges for SIAP over the next five years:

- Addressing increase in demand for training. Balancing the continuing need for training on basic statistics with demand for training in new topics, wider reach and diversity of training needs.
- Facilitating clear articulation by member and associate member States of their training needs. Targeted and appropriately designed training to increase efficiency and effectiveness of training in light of increased demand.
- Maintaining highly qualified and technologically-competent core staff. Providing leadership in developing, coordinating and providing regional training requires maintaining a staffing pattern and acquiring staff with areas of expertise and competencies that match the priority areas.
- Developing a viable model for e-learning and blended learning courses. Setting criteria to select appropriate instructional design and modalities for optimal utilization and impact of web-based training.
- Making collaborative mechanisms work. To institutionalize partnerships, facilitate sharing of training resources and mobilize financial resources, collaboration is essential.
- Measuring quality of programmes and training resources. Quality redounds to excellence and needs to be effectively and convincingly measured, with particular challenges in evaluating impact of web-based courses.
- Attaining financial sustainability. Assured funding to ensure continuity and stability needed for short-term and long-term commitments.

67. To respond to the challenges and set priorities, SIAP will follow four broad directions: more focus, effective coordination, more efficiency and greater adaptability. Focus and coordination are key to attaining excellence in providing training and excellence in training resources. Coordination and adaptability are crucial in strengthening engagement with stakeholders. Adaptability and efficiency are foundations for attaining excellence in leadership in the field of statistical capacity development through training.

C. Work and financial plan for 2015

68. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled “Work and financial plan of the Institute for 2015” (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/5). The

work plan and corresponding financial plan has three main components: core training programmes/courses and seminars and related training resources development; implementation of the training component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; and coordination of statistical training and capacity development in Asia and the Pacific.

1. 2015 Work Plan and the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan

69. In presenting the 2015 work plan, the Director noted that the proposal implements the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan endorsed at the July 2014 interim session of the Council that aims for excellence in providing training and training resources and strengthened engagement with stakeholders.

(a) Core training programmes/courses and seminars and related training resource development

70. SIAP plans to implement about 22 training courses and workshops across nine programme areas guided by the priority outputs of the strategic plan, targeting junior- to senior-level statisticians and data users as well as managers and leaders of statistical offices, and using effective training modalities, including internet-based training:

- Fundamentals of official statistics, including on-demand country-focused courses (2nd SIAP/JICA on production and statistical analysis of monitoring indicators in support of inclusive development policy, 3rd SIAP/JICA course on production of SDG indicators and four country-focused courses (Afghanistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao PDR and Maldives))
- Population and social statistics (regional workshop on use of administrative registers, regional course on measuring informality)
- Gender statistics (regional course on core set of gender indicators)
- National accounts and economic statistics (regional course on statistical business register, regional course on advanced topics on SNA 2008, basic and intermediate level e-learning courses on SNA 2008)
- Environmental-economic accounts and environment statistics (regional course on 2012 SEEA)
- Monitoring the post-2015 development goal (sub-regional workshops on SDG monitoring)
- Advanced statistical methodologies and use of ICT (regional technical seminar on challenges and issues in use of big data)
- Research-based training course on improving statistical methodologies
- Effective and innovative leadership and management of statistics for development (Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistics Offices, regional workshop on statistical quality management and fundamental principles of official statistics)

71. For training resources development activities will focus on training-of-trainers for trainers certification, establishing database of experts in statistics, assessing training needs and measuring impact of training.

72. The representative of Japan stressed the importance of the annual needs survey of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for implementing the training courses and encouraged member States to give priority to the SIAP-JICA training courses in this survey.

73. ILO, ITU, and UNFPA expressed strong interest in working with SIAP on delivering training in areas such as ICT household statistics, analysis of census and household survey data, and the new recommendations on labour and employment. ADB welcomed opportunities of continuing collaboration with SIAP on areas of their regional technical assistance priorities such as business registers and basic statistics capacity building in Myanmar. SESRIC expressed interest in collaborating on e-learning courses.

74. The Governing Council noted the importance of providing training on applications of ICT in modernising statistical systems and recommended that SIAP should cover the topic in its training programmes.

75. The representative of Indonesia noted that big data would be a big challenge in relation to monitoring the post-2015 development agenda. The Governing Council recognized the breadth of areas for which big data could be utilized such as transport statistics, trade statistics and price statistics and urged SIAP to explore the needs for training in these areas.

(b) Implementation of the training component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (RAP)

76. The Director informed the Council that as coordinator of the training component of the RAP, the SIAP work plan integrates the training activities of the RAP. The Director explained that the governance bodies of the RAP review and endorse the activities of the RAP and would be presented separately under agenda item 5 (b). (refer to paras 86 – 90).

77. The Governing Council recognized the importance of improving agricultural and rural statistics of countries in the region and noted with appreciation the effective collaboration among the regional implementing partners (ADB, FAO and ESCAP).

78. The representative of FAO expressed appreciation for the strong collaboration with SIAP in improving statistical capacity in the area of agricultural statistics. Noting that a continuing challenge in project implementation is finding suitable resource persons for training, FAO committed to provide assistance in this regard.

(c) Coordination of statistical training and capacity development in Asia and the Pacific

79. The Director emphasized the importance of coordination and collaboration among training providers in order to meet the demands for training in a wide range of topics in the region. SIAP activities on coordination will mainly support facilitating the Network activities and include: the Seventh Workshop on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training, the second meeting of the Network, developing a database on training and capacity building initiatives and providing both substantive and secretariat support in the implementation of the work programme.

2. 2015 Financial Plan

80. In presenting the financial plan for the proposed programme of work, the Director drew the attention of the Council to the funding gaps for training courses for which there were as yet no identified funding sources. The Director explained that the main funding gaps involved primarily travel costs and daily substance allowance for participants. The Governing Council appreciated the importance of cost-sharing arrangements between SIAP and training institutes in filling some of the resource gaps. The representative of Islamic Republic of Iran suggested that SIAP include information on the collaborating organizations in the plan.

81. The representative of Japan expressed that it would continue to provide not only cash contribution but also in-kind contribution including facilities and upgraded computer system for implementation of the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan and encouraged member States to continue to support SIAP.

D. Consideration of matters relating to the Committee on Statistics

1. Regional coordination of statistical training

82. The Governing Council had before it the progress report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/6).

83. Emphasizing the importance of strengthening partnerships and the benefits of improving coordination in statistical capacity building in the region, the Governing Council noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific with 24 member States and development partners as founding members. The Council endorsed the proposed 2015-2016 programme of work of the Network.

84. The Council also noted with satisfaction the decision of the Network to create a sub-group for training on agricultural and rural statistics to support the training component of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and endorsed the proposed terms of reference and work plan of the sub-group.

85. The representative of Japan expressed its support to the activities of SIAP as the secretariat of the Network and encouraged relevant organizations of national statistical offices and international organizations to provide cooperation and support to SIAP in this coordinating role.

2. Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (RAP)

86. The Governing Council had before it the report on the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Training Component (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/7).

87. SIAP reported that seven of the twelve planned activities would be completed by December 2014. These include organizational meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and the agricultural statistics sub-group of the Network, an experts meeting on training needs assessments and four training courses/workshops on sampling for agricultural surveys, policy analysis for food security and

sustainable agriculture, survey methods and integrated survey systems for agricultural and rural statistics and developing training needs assessment tools and processes. About 140 trainers and statisticians from national statistical offices, statistical training institutes, ministries of agriculture, universities and international organizations participated in these events.

88. The Council recognized the need for improving agricultural and rural statistics of countries in the region and noted with appreciation the effective collaboration among the implementing partners of the RAP. It expressed support for the proposed 2015 programme of work for the training component of the RAP and, noting the importance of coordination as a strategy in implementing the training activities, expressed appreciation and highlighted the importance of the role of SIAP as training coordinator.

89. The representative of Japan noted that the training activities for agricultural and rural statistics was emphasized in the 2015-2019 SIAP Strategic Plan and expressed that it would support the training activities of SIAP related to the RAP. The Council agreed with the observation of the representative of FAO that the inclusion of agricultural and rural statistics as a focus area in the strategic plan should be leveraged to raise funds for the RAP.

90. The representative of FAO committed to support SIAP such as by providing resource persons for the training activities of the RAP.

3. Review of Conference Structure of ESCAP and Reporting Line of SIAP

91. Noting that the Commission through Resolution 69/1 had decided to review the conference structure of the Commission and had requested the ESCAP Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its 71st session a report to include, among others, recommendations on reforming the governance of the regional institutions and their integration within the secretariat's work programme, the representative of Japan summarized earlier recommendations of the Governing Council and the Committee on Statistics regarding the reporting line of SIAP.

92. The Council reiterated its recommendation contained in the Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/14) that strongly recommends that "the current arrangements for reporting to the Commission be retained and that additional layers should not be added". The Council also reiterated its view expressed in the abovementioned report that "the Council and the Committee on Statistics were already coordinating well, and that a change in the reporting line of the Governing Council could have the adverse effect of lowering the level in governments to which statistical training priorities were reported".

93. The Governing Council further noted that the third session of the Committee on Statistics, in reviewing the functioning of the Committee, stated that (E/ESCAP/CST(3)/17): "The Committee recognized its important role in providing substantive direction to the work of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The current reporting arrangements, whereby the Governing Council of the Institute reports directly to the Commission, were considered the best modality for both the Committee and the Governing Council. The Committee recommended that the Commission maintain the current reporting arrangements regarding the Governing Council of SIAP".

E. Other matters

94. No other matters were raised.

F. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Governing Council

95. The Governing Council had before it the proposed date and venues for the eleventh session of the Governing Council (E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/8).

96. The Council decided to hold its eleventh session in December 2015 in Chiba, Japan.

G. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council

97. On 12 December 2014, the Governing Council endorsed the matters calling for action or to be brought to the attention of the Commission (see Chapter I). It agreed that, as Secretary of the Council, the Director of SIAP would prepare the full report of the Governing Council on its tenth session for the seventy-first session of the Commission.

III. Organization of the session**A. Opening of the session**

98. The tenth session of the Governing Council of SIAP was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 and 12 December 2014.

99. The representative of the Chair of the ninth session of the Governing Council, Mr. Suryamin (Indonesia), officially opened the tenth session.

100. An opening statement was delivered by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

B. Attendance

101. The session was attended by representatives of the host Government (Japan) and seven of the eight elected members of the Governing Council: Australia; China; Indonesia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation and Thailand. India did not send a representative to the session.

102. Representatives of the following members and associate members attended the session as observers: Bangladesh, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

103. Representatives of the following organizations attended the session as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Environmental Programme, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Statistics Division, Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries.

C. Election of officers

104. The Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (Australia)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Takao Itou (Japan)

D. Adoption of the agenda

105. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the ninth session of the Governing Council and its interim session.
3. Report of the Director of the Institute.
4. Work and financial plan for 2015.
5. Consideration of matters relating to the Committee on Statistics:
 - (a) Report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Report on the Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Training component;
 - (c) Review of conference structure of ESCAP and reporting line of SIAP.
6. Other matters.
7. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Governing Council.
8. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council.

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	Title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/1	Annotated provisional agenda	1c
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/2	Matters arising from the ninth session of the Governing Council and its interim session	2
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/3	Report of the Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to the Governing Council at its tenth session	3
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/4	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth interim session	4
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/5	Work and financial plan of the Institute for 2015	4
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/6	Progress report on the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific	5a
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/7	Report on the Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: training component	5b
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/8	Proposed dates and venue for the eleventh session of the Governing Council	7
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/9	Draft report	8
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/INF/2	Provisional list of participants	1b
E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC(10)/INF/3	Provisional schedule of the meeting	1a

Annex II

**Financial statement of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
for the year ended 31 December 2014**
(United States dollars)

	2014	2013
<i>Income</i>		
Contributions	2 226 000	2 896 617
Interest income	22 898	21 506
Total income	2 248 898	2 918 123
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	1 781 040	1 992 110
Net income over expenditure	467 858	926 013
Fund balance as at 1 January 2014	3 405 361	2 479 348
<i>Less: Refunds to donors</i>	--	--
Fund balance as at 31 December 2014	3 873 219	3 405 361

Annex III

Financial statement of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for the year ended 31 December 2014 by project component
(United States dollars)

	Joint contributions capacity development project - Institutional support	Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (FAO)	Total
<i>Income</i>			
Contributions	2 012 286 ^a	213 714	2 226 000
Interest income	18 157	4 741	22 898
Total income	2 030 443	218 455	2 248 898
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	1 496 751	284 289	1 781 040
Net income over expenditure	533 692	(65 834)	467 858
Fund balance as at 1 January 2014	2 795 893	609 468	3 405 361
<i>Less: Refunds to donors</i>	--	--	--
Fund balance as at 31 December 2014	3 329 585	543 634	3 873 219

^a Please refer to annex IV for details of contributions.

Annex IV

Cash contributions to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for institutional support received during the year 2014
(United States dollars)

Country/Area	Year ended 31 December 2014	Year ended 31 December 2013
Australia	- ^a	-
Azerbaijan	-	-
Bangladesh	5 000	5 000
Bhutan	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	45 000
Cambodia	-	-
China	60 000	60 000
Fiji	9 881	-
Hong Kong, China	30 000	30 000
India	-	25 000
Indonesia	30 000	30 000
Iran, Islamic Republic of	23 824 ^b	-
Japan	1 655 200	1 640 700
Kazakhstan	5 000	5 000
Macao, China	20 000	20 000
Malaysia	20 000	20 000
Maldives	-	-
Mongolia	10 000	10 000
Myanmar	3 000	1 000
Pakistan	15 006	14 862
Papua New Guinea	-	-
Philippines	18 375	-
Republic of Korea	50 000	50 000
Russian Federation	-	-
Samoa	-	-
Singapore	-	15 000
Sri Lanka	10 000	10 000
Thailand	20 000	30 000
Timor-Leste	5 000 ^c	-
Tonga	10 000 ^f	-
Turkey	-	15 000
Tuvalu	-	1 200
Vanuatu	-	-
Viet Nam	12 000	10 000
Total	2 012 286	2 037 762

^a We received cash contributions of USD 200,000 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the years 2015-2016 which is set aside in the deferred income amount to be recognized as income in the appropriate years.

^b This represented annual contributions for 2012 and 2013.

^c This represented annual contribution for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

^d This represented annual contribution for 2013.

^e This represented annual contribution for 2013.

^f This represented annual contributions for 2013 and 2014.