Role of International Agencies in SDG Monitoring:
United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Jan Smit

Senior Statistician

smit1@un.org

www.linkedin.com/in/jan-smit

Mandate

- To provide training to official statisticians to strengthen the capacity of members to produce timely and high-quality statistics
- To support members in strengthening their statistical training capability

- Established: 1970
- Location: Chiba, Japan
- Organizational status: Regional institution of ESCAP (since mid-1990s)
- Funding: dedicated member country contributions and through projects

Working in partnership with …

- Statistical offices & training institutes
  - Republic of Korea, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia (recently)
- International organizations
  - FAO, UNSD, ILO, UNESCO, UN Women, PARIS21, World Bank, WIEGO (again, recently)
- Other parts of ESCAP
- Japanese ministries & agencies
  - Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
    - Provides largest share of funding and in-kind support
    - And also home of Statistics Bureau of Japan
  - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Modalities

- Residential courses with JICA on:
    - Statistics for meeting the SDG demand
    - Producing disaggregated SDG indicators
    - ICT innovations for modernizing statistical systems
    - A mixed bag of others
- Implementing training components of global and regional capacity development strategies
    - Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
        - Of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Modalities (cont.)

- Regional and subregional courses
  - In Japan or elsewhere in the region
  - Typically with national and/or international partners, and/or other parts of ESCAP
- Country courses
  - On demand, hence great variety in topics
  - From training in **R** statistical software in Myanmar to on SDG statistics and SNA for Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- E-learning
  - Standalone courses
  - As part of move to blended learning approach

Priority on the 2 Agendas

- 2030 Agenda and SDGs (evidently)
- Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics
- Compilation, including disaggregation, of SDG statistics & indicators
  - With a view to the strengthening of national statistical systems this entails
- "New" technologies & data sources
  - Electronic data capture (such as CAPI)
  - Geographical information systems & mapping
  - Big data
  - Statistical & GIS software

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

- Aims to improve regional coordination of statistical training
- Membership
  - Countries with statistical training institutes
  - International organizations with an interest in statistics development in the region
- Established in 2012
- By ESCAP Committee on Statistics
- SIAP is secretariat

Network: Priorities of work, development of ...

- Coordinated / common curricula for:
  - Agricultural and rural statistics
  - Economic statistics
  - Gender statistics (under discussion)
- Training needs assessment tool(s)
  - With a particular view to the demand emanating from the 2030 Agenda & the SDGs
- Repository of regional training resources
- Programme for certifying trainers & training institutes in official statistics

Meeting the challenges ahead

- Integrating the continuum of support from training to onsite, hands-on technical assistance
- From training to guidelines and tools
- E-learning: ramp-up online courses, extent to other approaches to remote learning
  - With partners
  - To enhance reach and retention
- Capitalizing on the scope for cooperation between countries
  - How to make South-South cooperation really work

Follow SIAP …

- www.unsiap.or.jp
  - If interested, keep an eye out for the increasing number of e-learning opportunities that gradually will appear
- On LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13514159
  - Group for training participants and alumni, as well as current and former staff members, consultants, resource persons and partners, of SIAP. The aim of the group is to grow a network of training expertise for accelerated development of official statistics in Asia and the Pacific and beyond.