

Workshop to Implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions
in the System of National Accounts in Asia

Bangkok, Thailand
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Opening remarks by ESCAP
Mr Ipo Survo
Officer in Charge, a.i.
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Prof Salamon, Center for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University,
Mr Leigh, United Nations Volunteers Programme,
Mr Seki, Sasakawa Peace Foundation,
Distinguished participants, friends and colleagues,

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this workshop, which is a follow-up to the normative work that the Johns Hopkins University, United Nations, ESCAP and the other partners have been doing on better accounting of the contribution of non-profit institutions in the society. It is now time to implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in Asia, and I am pleased to note that considerable interest exists in this topic in the region.
2. I thank all Governments and non-profit institutions for nominating such highly-qualified participants. The impact of the Workshop depends on what you do after you return home. I have no doubt that you have the commitment and influence to put the ideas from the Handbook and this Workshop into practice.
3. On behalf of United Nations ESCAP, I should like to thank the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and its representatives here for providing generous funding for this workshop. I hope that you continue supporting the work on creating better national accounts for the region.
4. As most of you know, the Johns Hopkins University has been a key technical driver of the Handbook for many years, along with the United Nations Statistics Division. I should like to express my thanks to Professor Salamon and his team in the Center for Civil Society Studies who have been collaborating with the United Nations, including ESCAP, in this effort. ESCAP Regional Adviser on National Accounts, Ms Heidi Arboleda contributed to the Handbook as the member of the consultative group in 1999-2001. We were really honoured when JHU approached us to co-organize this workshop.
5. Our thanks go to the United Nations Volunteers Programme for the technical assistance that they are providing to countries that are implementing the Handbook. I hope that this can serve as an example for further involvement of the Volunteers in statistical capacity building.
6. The Handbook calls for the creation of a satellite account that will give a greater visibility to the vital role that non-profit institutions play in our economies. Their role has also been underscored in the recent Asian Tsunami disaster; in the aftermaths of which NPIs have been at the forefront of assisting the victims. Or let me mention that a study made a couple of years ago in India, estimated that 3.4% of the total adult population was working in

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this sector. Or that in New Delhi, one out of eight adult person is working in the non-profit institutions. Or think about the invaluable work that the Grameen Bank is doing in Bangladesh by providing microcredit to women. I am sure that our Thai colleagues can later in this Workshop tell you something about the important role the non-profit institutions are playing in our beautiful host country.

Distinguished participants,

7. You have an interesting agenda in front of you. You will hear experiences from Australia and Japan and other countries in practical issues in applying the Handbook's principles. I wish to thank the resource persons for the substantive contributions they will be making.

8. Last but not least, I thank all persons that have worked so hard to put together the programme and administrative arrangements for these two days. Thank you Megan Clymer and Eileen Hairel from the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, and my colleagues Joel Jere, Khun Praphaban and Khun Varaphorn from ESCAP. You have been working so hard and so successfully.

9. I wish you stimulating discussion and success in your Workshop. Thank you all very much.