

Statistical Newsletter

ISSN: 0252-3647

January 2003

No. 128



<http://www.unescap.org/stat>

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From the Editor

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Statistics adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the upcoming Commission session in April 2003.

Among the major topics discussed during the session was the major opportunity for statistical capacity building presented by the broad interest in the Millennium Development Goals and the corresponding need to measure progress towards their achievement. Gender issues also featured prominently on the agenda as the Committee expressed the need to provide sex disaggregation for all relevant MDG indicators. It also agreed that higher priority should be given to the better measurement of women's economic contribution.

Significantly, the Committee also considered it urgent to establish a viable regional plan to improve poverty statistics in the region.

We also report on a regional workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA held in Ankara and a regional seminar on monitoring and evaluation of poverty.

As always, we wish you good reading.

Thirty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The thirty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the global apex body in the field of official statistics, will be held in New York from 4 to 7 March 2003.

The provisional agenda of the upcoming session will include many topics of interest for the Asian and Pacific region, including the Millennium Development Goals indicators, the International Comparison Programme, measuring the new economy, social and economic classifications, and statistical capacity building.

The session documents are available from www.unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2003.htm

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Economic and
Social Commission
for Asia and
the Pacific

Decisions and recommendations of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Statistics, Bangkok, 27-29 November 2002

The Committee held its thirteenth biennial session in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November. The 2002 session drew together delegates from 32 members and associate members, of which 24 were represented from the capitals. Twelve chief statisticians attended along with representatives from 19 regional and international organizations. The strong attendance and the high level of representation confirmed the role of the Committee on Statistics as the leading forum in the field of official statistics for the Asian and Pacific region.

The present article summarizes the main issues discussed during the session. The Committee's conclusions and recommendations will be reviewed by the UNESCAP 59th Commission session, to be held in Bangkok from 24 to 30 April 2003.

Documents and country papers presented during the session and the complete report of the Committee are available from the Statistics Division web site at www.unescap.org/stat/cos13

Development Indicators

Recalling the origin, evolution and current status of the harmonization and coordination of development indicators, the Committee agreed with the United Nations Statistical Commission that there had been insufficient country involvement in the selection of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators. Consequently, the Committee considered that further harmonization and rationalization of indicators, taking special account of the MDG indicators, was needed.

The Committee observed that most statistical systems were not yet ready to provide data for many health-related indicators coming under goal 6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Data gaps were also identified for some poverty and environmental sustainability indicators. The Committee observed that the poor reliability in existing data series, arising from methodological problems, poor timeliness, and insufficient frequency, contrasted with the broad interest in the Millennium Development Goals and the inherent need to measure progress towards their achievement. The Committee noted that the MDGs, in bringing data weaknesses to light, had created a major momentum for statistical capacity building, and it urged national and international stakeholders and the UNESCAP secretariat to seize that opportunity.

The Committee encouraged national statistical offices, as coordinators of data compilation for development indicators, to provide inputs for international discussion on the appropriateness and feasibility of development

indicators computation in individual country circumstances. Such input should be forwarded to the Standing Advisory Committee on Development Indicators. The advisory committee was set up in October 2002 by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on the recommendation of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Committee observed that the necessity for such a body had been demonstrated by the fact that recent major international conferences (International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterey, March 2002; and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, August 2002) had suggested several new development indicators. It expressed the hope that a better balance could be found between the desire of the international development community to improve development monitoring and the ability of national statistical systems to provide the required data.

Noting the general importance of disaggregating indicators by common classifying variables, the Committee drew special attention to the need to provide sex disaggregation for all possible MDG indicators.

Poverty statistics

The Committee recalled that the Working Group of Statistical Experts, at its 12th session in 2001, had recommended that a handbook be prepared on the compilation of poverty statistics and poverty measures. The Committee was informed that the United Nations Statistics Division, together with the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics were already planning to prepare a manual on good practices in poverty statistics, to be published in 2005. The Committee welcomed the initiative but expressed doubts over the suitability of the handbook, which might be theoretical in nature, to address the urgent needs of the developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region. These needs are for a compendium of good practices, detailing what kind of survey instruments to use, the desirable frequency of surveys, the geographical levels as well as the type of information for which the surveys are suited.

The Committee suggested that UNESCAP should be associated with the UNSD plans for the handbook and should explore possibilities for the manual to be issued progressively.

The Committee also heard a presentation by the Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) showing the linkages between the statistics needed for the preparation of the UNDP initiated National Human Development Reports (NHDRs), the MDGs, and the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers (PRSPs). It was pointed out that the same data collection effort was the basis of the statistics needed for all three purposes. The broad view

of development taken by these indicator sets shows that the international development community now better realizes that raising standards of living and attacking poverty involves other key dimensions than the measurement of aggregate income and its distribution, such as the empowerment of individuals to shape their own lives. The Committee recognized however that the adoption of this broader view had created new data requirements, and consequently increased demand on statistical offices.

The Committee noted that UNDP-funded training courses by SIAP to strengthen countries' capabilities in compiling data needed for the NHDRs had clearly demonstrated the important role that National Statistical Offices (NSOs) had to play in the preparation of the Reports, in terms of providing advice and inputs on sources, methodology, and presentation of data. However, many NSOs in the region had not been significantly involved in the preparation of the reports for their respective country, their role being limited to that of data provider.

In discussing the role of NSOs in compiling poverty statistics, the Committee acknowledged the fundamental function of NSOs as information provider for national policy needs, but also acknowledged the need to respond to international demands in the perspective of a globalizing world. It stressed that there was no single universal standard that would suit everyone and that countries should select the measures most suitable to their own development needs.

In concluding its discussions, the Committee called for a regional plan to be elaborated to improve poverty statistics in the region and offered its services to UNESCAP in the form of a small group of members formed on a voluntary basis. The Committee felt that UNESCAP could coordinate the elaboration of such a plan involving the other international agencies active in the region.

Gender statistics and informal employment

The Committee examined the topic on the basis of a document prepared within the framework of the UNIFEM, UNESCAP and UNDP project seeking to introduce methodological approaches to address gender and other substantive issue in relation to the informal sector and homework.

In considering the document, the Committee agreed with its strong argument for the sex-disaggregation of data, particularly economic data where disaggregation by sex was not common. The Committee recognized the need to engender national statistics, including economic statistics, for increased policy emphasis on gender equality. It concluded that national statistical offices should give more priority to the improvement of

data collection to better measure women's economic contributions by implementing the extended production boundary of the 1993 SNA.

The Committee recognized the usefulness of time use surveys in assessing women's work, but noted that such surveys were expensive. While promoting the undertaking of time use surveys, the Committee felt that other methods, such as extended labour force surveys and use of administrative records, and mixed surveys using a dual approach with a combination of data sources, could be used to compile information on the informal sector and homeworkers.

The Committee also noted that gender statistics were not widely used within some countries, and that dialogue between data producers and data users needed to be strengthened in order to produce statistics for better policy advocacy, design, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Non-Observed Economy

The Committee considered the topic on the basis of presentations by Eurostat and by the OECD on its new manual, co-published with the IMF and ILO and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT): "Measuring the Non-Observed Economy – A handbook". Since GDP is not only a measure of economic activity but is also used to calculate a wide range of policy-relevant indicators, it is essential that statisticians measure the absolute level of GDP correctly and include, to the extent possible, the non-observed economy (NOE). NOE consists essentially of the underground and illegal activities, hidden on purpose, and of the informal sector and own account production, which were not included in national accounts due to deficient data collection systems. In some countries participating in the OECD study, the NOE represented close to one third of the GDP.

The Committee was informed of the measurement techniques and survey tools developed to capture the various NOE components. The importance of developing a strategy to identify the conceptual and analytical framework that could lead to improving basic data sources was highlighted. It was also stated that the macro-model methods, sometimes used to produce one estimate of the entire NOE, were not reliable.

In discussing the topic, the Committee raised the issue of whether the estimation of the NOE was an appropriate task for NSOs and whether governments would accept the estimates. The Committee felt that it would be useful to consider the inclusion of the NOE in the national accounts statistics as it would result in improved GDP data and basic economic data. However, in formulating the objectives of NOE work,

it was crucial that data users be involved and that the project be carried out jointly between the NSO and other key players to avoid controversy if major changes in the procedures for collecting the basic statistics had to be carried out.

In view of the importance of the informal sector in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region, the Committee recommended that UNESCAP, with the support of OECD and Eurostat, organize a meeting where the relevance of the different techniques to developing countries could be assessed.

Disability Statistics

The Committee examined the issue of disability statistics in the light of the recent developments in this field. These include the endorsement by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as the international standard to describe and measure health and disability. The ICF includes all aspects of human health and offers a unified and standard language and framework for the description of health and health-related states. It provides a description of situations with regards to human functioning, encompassing all body function, activities and participation. Disability is defined in the ICF classification to cover not only physical impairments, but also activity limitations and participation restrictions

A second recent development in the area of disability statistics has been the creation of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement, which held its first meeting in February 2002. The newly created city group, whose programme of work was endorsed by the Statistical Commission in March 2002, will guide the development of small sets of general disability measures, suitable for use in censuses, sample based national surveys, or other statistical formats. The group will use the ICF classification model as a basis for its methodological work in developing such internationally comparable disability measures.

The Committee also took note of the extension of the first Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, 2003-2012. This second decade is supported by the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action which sets out priority areas, targets and strategies to achieve an inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society for disabled persons. The plan identifies the lack of adequate statistics as one of the most significant factors leading to the neglect of disability issues and spells out strategies to address this issue:

- Governments are encouraged to develop, by 2005, their system for disability-related data collection

and analysis and to produce relevant statistics disaggregated by disability, so that comparative studies between the disabled and non-disabled population can be undertaken to support policy-making and programme planning

- Governments are encouraged to adopt, by 2005, definitions on disability based on the Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics, which will allow inter-country comparison in the region

Further information on the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, is available at <http://www.unescap.org/decade/otsu.htm>

The Committee, recognizing the limitations of population censuses in measuring accurately the extent of disabilities, acknowledged that general household surveys with a specially built-in section on disabilities, or even dedicated surveys, were better suited for that purpose; it welcomed the programme of work of the Washington Group in that area. The Committee strongly supported the involvement of UNESCAP, in association with WHO, in activities in the area of disability measurement, especially in the context of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and encouraged the Statistics Division to seek project funding for the purpose.

Revision process of ISIC and CPC for 2007

The revision process for the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) for 2007 has been launched by the United Nations Statistics Division. The initial period will be devoted to the collection of inputs from interested parties regarding the conceptual issues of the revision. The Committee stressed the importance of bringing a regional perspective to the revision process and noted that the upcoming meeting of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics in Japan in October 2003 would constitute an opportunity to examine classification issues in relation to services activities and products, especially information and communication technologies (ICT). Other regional initiatives include the proposed ASEAN task force to provide inputs into the global revision process and a planned ESCAP/ASEAN working group meeting on the subject in 2003. In its conclusions, the Committee requested UNESCAP to organize further sub-regional workshops to identify and evaluate region-specific needs.

International Comparison Programme (ICP)

This item of the agenda was discussed on the basis of a presentation by the World Bank and the Asian

Development Bank (ADB). The Committee appreciated that the region was already represented on the interim ICP Executive Board (Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission) and would be represented on the Global ICP Council.

The Committee underlined the statistical capacity-building potential of the ICP, and urged countries to take ownership of the programme and integrate it into regular statistical work. International agencies had mobilized a substantial amount of resources, but the Committee noted that the ICP programme would succeed only if countries participated wholeheartedly. In that connection, it welcomed Singapore's offer to host one of the regional ICP workshop planned.

The Committee welcomed the decision that the reference year for the next ICP round would be 2004 and advised that the coming months should be used to make adequate preparations for the production of credible Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs). In noting ADB's plans for the regional coordination unit and Regional Governing Board, the Committee recognized that it would be necessary to mobilize more resources for carrying out the regional comparison.

Measuring the knowledge-based economy

The Committee agreed that the experiences of developed countries in improving data collection methods for measuring the information society could be useful for the region. It hoped that UNESCAP would be able to obtain funding for its project proposal designed to adapt those experiences to build regional capacities for assessing and monitoring the role of ICT. The Committee also took note of the revision of key international classifications, including those on economic activities, products and occupations for them to better reflect the changes ICT had brought about in the economy.

Implementation of the 1993 SNA

The Committee reviewed activities that had been undertaken in support of the Action Plan on Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and heard of the difficulties encountered by the secretariat in mobilizing financial and human resources to implement the Action Plan. In that connection, the Committee noted that the regional advisory post in national accounts had been converted to poverty statistics in line with the new orientation of UNESCAP towards poverty reduction.

Recognizing the very high priority that all countries continued to place on capacity building in national accounts, the Committee urged the secretariat to persist in seeking resources to implement the Action Plan. It also advised the secretariat to work in close

collaboration with other organizations in that area. The Committee welcomed the planned recruitment of a new regional adviser in economic statistics, whose work would go some way towards meeting the need.

The Committee endorsed a series of topics for future workshops in the area of national accounts, namely: uses of administrative data sources in national accounts; interpreting national account data and writing analytical reports; quarterly national accounts; business tendency surveys and composite leading indicators; and trade in services.

Statistical capacity-building

At the current session the Committee focused on an important aspect of institutional capacity, the maintenance of the integrity and legitimacy of national statistical services. It commended the quality of the supporting document prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The Committee noted that the maintenance of public confidence in national statistical systems was not possible without sound legislation, broad community support, selection and maintenance of core values, sound governance, good planning, good resource management, the trust of respondents, and professionalism.

As the Committee observed that line ministries and government departments did not always accord the same priority and integrity requirements as dedicated statistical offices to the compilation of statistics, it encouraged NSOs to promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in a wider context. The Committee asked the UNESCAP secretariat to consider organizing a seminar on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

The Committee also noted that the perception about statistical systems could be significantly improved by informing all stakeholders, especially data users and the media, about measures put in place to guard the integrity of the system and the confidentiality of raw data. The Committee suggested that the secretariat could consider helping statistical offices in addressing those issues.

New conference structure

The Committee noted that in accordance with the new conference structure of the Commission, statistics would be an area under the Committee on Poverty Reduction and one of its two subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Statistics. The committee and its subcommittees would be convened biennially for a maximum duration of three days.

The Committee recommended that statisticians use the

new conference structure actively for advancing statistical development in the region. It considered it desirable that official statisticians at the highest level attend the Committee on Poverty Reduction and that the Committee's agenda include statistical items in a prominent and substantive manner. Similarly, high-level participation by government statisticians in the subcommittee would also be desirable.

However, the Committee expressed doubt that such high-level participation in the Committee and the Subcommittee would be possible. It also expressed concerns over the status and scope of the agenda of the Subcommittee, which would be largely affected by the scope and orientation of the Committee on Poverty Reduction. The Committee noted that the wide ranging discussions at the present session covered many issues which would probably not be of concern to the Committee on Poverty Reduction, underlining the point that statistics served not only poverty reduction, but also the two other themes of the Commission: managing globalization; and addressing social issues.

The Committee therefore agreed that while active participation of statisticians in the Committee on Poverty Reduction and the Subcommittee on Statistics was to be encouraged, there was a strong need for the maintenance of an apex forum of official statisticians in the region which would influence national decision-making as well as provide regional input to global discussions at the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Accordingly, members of the Committee decided to explore the establishment of a forum of Asia-Pacific statisticians that would be convened periodically in Bangkok under the auspices of the United Nations, and requested the current Bureau to form a small group of countries to work in-depth on this initiative.

WB/UNESCAP/ADB/NSO Regional Seminar for Asian Managers on Monitoring and Evaluation of Poverty Reduction Programmes, Bangkok, 9-11 October 2002

The regional seminar was related to the Poverty Analysis and Data Initiative (PADI) project initiated by the World Bank Institute to enhance national capacities in the areas of poverty measurement and diagnostics; poverty monitoring; and poverty impact evaluation.

The seminar, organized jointly by the World Bank and the UNESCAP Poverty Centre and Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the National Statistical Office of Thailand, brought together senior managers from national planning agencies, national statistical offices and other

relevant organizations of participating countries. It allowed participants to gain insight into the overall picture of poverty reduction strategies and statistical data demands and to discuss with colleagues from other countries as well as key representatives from the user community on how to best respond to new demands for statistical data emanating from the preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers (PRSPs) and the Millennium Development Goals.

The seminar was articulated around three key themes each introduced by two specific case studies:

- Overview of poverty reduction strategies and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the demand for statistical data
- Overview of the organization and management of national statistical systems from an institutional perspective
- Review of data producing systems for poverty reduction strategies that support PRSP and MDGs and improving data availability and quality

Meeting documents are available from UNESCAP web site at <http://www.unescap.org/povertycentre/WBI.htm>

UNESCAP/ECO/UNSD/SIS Subregional Workshop on Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts, Ankara, 21-25 October 2002

The workshop, convened in support of the regional Action Plan on the implementation of the 1993 SNA, was co-organized by UNESCAP, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Hosted by the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) of Turkey, the meeting drew together representatives of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The workshop's main objectives were to provide a forum to introduce and discuss key elements and issues of the 1993 SNA and exchange experiences and strategies of ECO member countries in its implementation. It also aimed to identify and formulate strategies that would strengthen the capacity of the ECO countries in compiling and maintaining national accounts statistics.

The workshop programme highlighted issues of growing importance such as the generation and use of short-term economic indicators for the analysis and prediction of the performance of the economy, and the development of quarterly national accounts. Similarly,

work on analytical indicators to maximize the use of national accounts for policy purposes is becoming increasingly important for countries facing the challenges of globalization.

The workshop stressed the importance of the Non-Observed Economy (NOE) and felt that a further workshop on that particular topic would be useful. It could be an opportunity to exchange experiences in the use of the recently published OECD Handbook on the Non-Observed Economy, as that might lead to the systematic development of a data collection scheme for national accounts compilation.

The workshop also examined classification issues, seeking the views of all countries in the preparation of the major revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) planned for 2007.

Reviewing the current status of national accounts compilation in the ECO area, the workshop identified various problems of individual countries in particular in implementing the 1993 SNA and recommended that these problems be addressed through inter-country and international cooperation.

Country papers and other meeting documents presented during the workshop are available from the UNESCAP web site at www.unescap.org/stat/meet/sna2/sna2.htm

Experimenting with the ICP ToolPak software

Processing data for the International Comparisons Programme (ICP) involves a significant amount of calculations and is challenging theoretically. At the same time, the tools that exist are rather complicated to use and often require separate software packages to compile, process, present and store the data.

The ICP ToolPak, integrated on a single platform, is intended for the compilation, analysis, presentation and analysis of ICP data. ICP ToolPak also broadens the choice of aggregation procedures in the ICP exercises.

A new version of the software is available from the World Bank web site at www.worldbank.org/data/icp/. National statistical offices are most welcome to download the ToolPak to experiment with national data and provide comments and suggestions.

Training opportunities

2003 Summer Workshops offered by the International Programs Center (IPC) in Washington

The International Programs Center (IPC) of the U.S. Census Bureau is organizing the following workshops for its summer training programme:

- National and Subnational Population Projections Using the Census Bureau's Rural-Urban Projection (RUP) Program, 19 - 30 May, 2003 (2 weeks, US\$2,000)
- Evaluating and Analyzing Aging-Related Data, 2 - 20 June, 2003 (3 weeks, US\$3,000)
- Improving Data Quality, 23 June - 11 July, 2003 (2 weeks in Washington and 1 week in Jeffersonville, IN, US\$3,500)
- Sampling and Statistical Methods, 7 July - 1 August, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$4,000)
- Disseminating Official Statistics in the New Millennium, 4 - 22 August, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$4,000)
- Microcomputer Processing of Censuses and Surveys, 25 August - 19 September, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$4,000)
- Statistical Methods for Measuring Economic Development and Growth, 22 September - 10 October, 2003 (3 weeks, US\$3,000)

Detailed information concerning the workshops and applications forms are available from the IPC web site at: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/imps/train.htm>

Seminars of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor

The International Labor Statistics Center of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) strengthens statistical development around the world through technical cooperation, seminars, and customized training programmes. The 2003 schedule comprises the following seminars:

- Measuring Compensation, April 28 - May 23, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Managing Information Technology, April 28 - May 23, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Measuring Employment and Unemployment, June 2 - July 3, 2003 (5 weeks, US\$6,825)
- Labor Market Information, June 9 - July 3, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Economic Indicators, July 7 - August 1, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Constructing Price Indexes, August 18 - September 12, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Projecting Tomorrow's Workforce Needs, August

18 - September 12, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)

- Analyzing Labor Statistics, October 14 - November 7, 2003 (4 weeks, US\$5,600)
- Managing Statistical Programs, October 20 - 31, 2003 (2 weeks, US\$2,450)

A special "Training of Trainers" course (3 days, US\$730) is offered after most seminars for participants who need to train their colleagues upon their return.

Further information on the upcoming BLS seminars is available from BLS web site at <http://www.bls.gov/itc/>

56th Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques

The Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research has announced its 56th Summer Institute. The training programme in survey research techniques offers graduate-level courses for students or professionals working in national statistical offices. The 56th Summer Institute, from June 2 through July 25, 2002 will offer the following courses:

- Introduction to Survey Research Techniques, 8 weeks, June 2-July 25
- Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data, 8 weeks, June 2-July 25
- Workshop in Survey Sampling Techniques, 8 weeks, June 2-July 25
- Methods of Survey Sampling, 8 weeks, June 2 July 25
- Data Collection Methods, 8 weeks, June 2-July 23
- Questionnaire Design, 8 weeks, June 2-July 24
- Analysis of Survey Data I, 4 weeks, June 2-27
- Analysis of Survey Data II, 4 weeks, June 2-27
- Computer Analysis of Survey Data II, 4 weeks, June 2-27
- Multi-Level Analysis of Survey Data, 4 weeks, June 2-27
- Cognition, Communication and Survey Measurement, 4 weeks, June 2-27
- Proseminar I: Population Research in Developing Countries, 4 weeks, June 2-26
- Introduction to the Survey Research Process, 1 week, June 9-13
- Introduction to Survey Sampling, 1 week, June 16-20
- Introduction to Questionnaire Design, 1 week,

June 9-13

- Event History Analysis, 1 week, June 16-20
- Testing Questions and Instruments for Survey Interviewing, 1 week, June 16-20
- Examining the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) Workshop, June 16-20
- Understanding Unit and Item Non response, 1 week, June 23-27
- Question Testing Methods, 1 week, June 23-27
- Hierarchical Linear Models, 1 weeks, June 23-27
- Analysis of Survey Data III, 4 weeks, June 30-July 25
- Computer Analysis of Survey Data III, 4 weeks, June 30-July 25
- Building and Testing Structural Equation Models, 4 weeks, June 30-July 25
- Design of Evaluation Research, 4 weeks, June 30-July 25
- Proseminar II: Population Research in Developing Countries, 4 weeks, June 30-July 25
- Qualitative Methods: Overview and Semi-Structured Interviewing, 2 weeks, June 30-July 11
- Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: Introduction and Overview, 2 weeks, June 30-July 11
- Introduction to Focus Groups as Qualitative Research, 2 weeks, July 14-25
- Qualitative Data Analysis: With and Without the Use of Computers, 2 weeks, July 14-25,
- Introduction to Survey Quality, 1 week, June 30-July 11
- Web Survey Design, 1 week, July 7-11
- Web Survey Implementation, 1 week, July 7-11
- Model Based Inference for Survey Data, 1 week, July 7-11
- Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) Workshop, Four days, July 21-24
- Statistical Analysis of Incomplete Data, 1 week, July 21-25

Fees to attend as a Summer Scholar range from US\$750 for a one-week course to US\$2200 for 8 week courses.

Detailed information on the 56th Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques courses is available at <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/si/>

Publications released by the Statistics Division

- *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Volume XXXII, No.3, September 2002*
- *Statistical Newsletter, No. 127, October 2002*

Missions of UNESCAP Statistics Staff

Mr. Andrew J. Flatt, Director, Statistics Division undertook a mission to:

Ankara (21-25 October): To moderate and service, with Mr Joel Jere, Statistician, the UNESCAP/ECO/UNSD/SIS Subregional Workshop on the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), Ankara, 21-25 October 2002.

Tokyo (29-31 October): To represent ESCAP at the eighth session of the SIAP Governing Board, 29-30 October 2002, Tokyo, and to attend the opening of the Regional Seminar on Statistics for National Human Development Reports, 31 October-2 November 2002.

Timor-Leste (11-15 November): To participate with Ms. Luisa T. Engracia, Specialist on Population Statistics with the UNFPA/CST in Kathmandu, in a UNESCAP/UNIFEM joint mission to assist in the balanced development of the national statistical system, and to review the prospects for engendering the statistical system.

Yangon (9-13 December): To represent UNESCAP at the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices (AHSOM 4), 9-10 December 2002, and to participate in the UNSD Workshop on Selected Good Practices in the Organization and Management of Statistical Systems, 11-13 December 2002, Yangon, Myanmar.

Ms Lene Mikkelsen, Chief, Statistics Development Section, undertook a mission to:

Seoul (21-25 October): To represent UNESCAP at the 19th session of the FAO Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, 21-25 October 2002, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Manila (6-9 November): To represent ESCAP at the Donors Coordination Meeting, 6 November 2002, and to represent UNESCAP at the ADB/PARIS21 High Level Forum on Statistical Capacity Building for ASEAN Countries, 7-9 November 2002, Manila, Philippines.

Mr Joel Jere, Statistician, undertook a mission to:

Dhaka (10-19 December): To participate in the Refresher Course on Accounting for Sustainable Economic and Social Development (ASESD) organized by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), 10-19 December 2002, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr. Nuri M. Ozsever, Specialist on Population Data Processing and Database Management with the UNFPA/CST in Bangkok, visited:

Hanoi (25-29 November): To act as resource person at the Regional Training Workshop on Health Management Information System (HMIS) East and South-east Asia, 25-29 November 2002 Hanoi, Viet Nam

Ms. Luisa T. Engracia, Specialist on Population Statistics with the UNFPA/CST in Kathmandu, visited:

Kazakhstan (16-20 Dec. 2002): to conduct an evaluation of the Population and Development Strategies sub-programme

Visitors to the Statistics Division

1. **Ms Nefise Bazoglu**, Chief, Research, Monitoring and Policy Coordination Division, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya
2. **Ms. K. Seeta Prabhu**, Head, Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP, New Delhi
3. **Mr. Ian Montagnes**, Publishing Consultant, Port Hope, Ontario

Staff Movements

Ms Patricia Alexander joined the ESCAP Statistics Division at the end of November 2002 as the Regional Adviser on Poverty Statistics. Ms. Alexander is an economist who has worked in macroeconomics, poverty programmes, and gender statistics in several Asian countries, including four years as a country economist at the Asian Development Bank. She has been a consultant for several UN agencies, OECD, Ford Foundation, BRIDGE (IDS), the African Development Bank, CIDA and other agencies, and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Manchester School of Economics. She specialises in the analysis of large-sample household surveys.

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