

Statistics Korea's Vision and Goal as a Member of the **SIAP Governing Council**

1. The Republic of Korea's Contribution to and Vision for the SIAP

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is keenly aware of the importance of statistics as a facilitator of evidence-based decision-making, as well as a supporter of the inclusive and sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region. It has remained fully committed to the development of statistics across the region, particularly in its role as a provider of training for statistical production capacity-building, which plays a vital role in the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In recognition of the importance of statistical training, **the ROK has partnered with the SIAP since 1999 to invite countries in the Asia-Pacific region for annual training in order to assist official statistical producers in developing the skills needed to produce timely and high-quality statistics. The Statistics Training Institute(STI), especially established for offering "Statistics" related training courses as the affiliated agency of Statistics Korea, has been providing such training to more than 600 participants from 40 countries over the years to make significant contributions to the strengthening of the statistical capacity of the SIAP member countries.** Training courses have spanned fields involving agricultural statistics, big data statistics, and those dealing with SDGs, to name a few, reflecting the needs of the SAIP's member countries. Over the decades, these training courses have produced beneficial outcomes and have been positively received.

The ROK is now moving beyond the conventional realm of statistical production to harness big data as a new data source in producing statistics, and is constantly exploring new approaches to statistical production by conducting population censuses through the use of administrative data and the linking of administrative data held by different organizations.

By sharing its experience in statistical production and fully engaging in the SIAP's activities, **the ROK will surely do its part in reinforcing the SIAP's role in modernizing statistical organizations and upgrading the knowledge and skills of statistical producers in the Asia-Pacific region.**

2. The ROK's Goal and Engagement as a Member of the SIAP Governing Council

The ROK's re-election as a member of the Governing Council will help expand the invitational training programmes that the ROK is currently undertaking in partnership with the SIAP and proactively share the ROK's experience as a statistical producer in CRVS, along with other wide-ranging areas, to eventually contribute to boosting the statistical production capacity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ROK will also create data science programmes to develop skills regarding the use of certain data sources, such as big data and administrative data, while at the same time it will produce e-learning and other virtual training programmes and offer them to member countries.

Last but not least, the Korean government will send its statistical training experts to the SIAP to facilitate communication between the SIAP and its member countries with an aim to provide training courses that fully meet the needs of its member countries.

■ ***Expanding invitational training courses***

The ROK plans to resume those training programmes in 2022 that have been suspended amid the global pandemic, and these programmes will address the topics of the SDGs and big data as requested by the SIAP. The ROK will commit to expanding these training programmes by increasing their frequency from the current semi-annual basis.

■ ***Sharing experience on CRVS***

The COVID-19 global pandemic is giving rise to mounting interest in mortality statistics, and this highlights the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) as a data source to promptly identify death counts and their causes. The ROK has been producing vital statistics in alignment with the nation's family registration system since 1970. On the strength of its track record in maintaining a well-organized vital statistics system for an extended period of time, the ROK will review the possibility of opening training courses designed to share its experiences in consultation with the SIAP Secretariat.

■ ***Creating data scientist training courses***

Aside from their production using traditional methods, new approaches to statistical production based on administrative data and big data are gaining greater importance. As such, the ROK will engage in consultations to open training courses to nurture data scientists capable of collecting, processing, analyzing and servicing a range of data sources. Such training courses will be designed to help trainees improve their working-level skills in the areas of data linkage and cleaning, as well as the processing of missing values and the application of analytics packages.

■ ***Providing e-learning courses***

The ROK will steadily engage in developing and providing e-learning materials in the event that in-person training is made more difficult due to COVID-19 or budget/time limitations. In the event that the spread of COVID-19 results in the cancellation of invitational training courses scheduled for 2022 and beyond, the ROK will produce and provide training videos to prevent any disruptions to statistical training.

■ ***Promoting closer communication***

To substantially enrich the SIAP's training programmes and to deliver greater satisfaction to trainees from the SIAP members, we will second Statistics Korea employees to the SIAP in consultation with the SIAP Secretariat to incorporate diverse feedback from member countries.