ASIA-PACIFIC STATS CAFE

HOW CAN WE HARMONIZE OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM?

31 May 2021, 1200-1300h (GMT+7)

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About the session

Data and information play an ever-increasing role in our lives. It is important for all the people to produce quality data as well as using quality data. The literacy of statistics needs to be advanced. In particular, role of universities is significant. Their educational curriculums should cover producing quality data.

Official statistics are an input in evidence-based policies and crucial for SDG monitoring. Considering the advances in official statistics as well as more broadly the advances in data science in the government, private sector and academia, it is important for universities to design official statistics course that foster collaboration between government, international organizations and universities.

Official statistics course could cover key aspects of official statistics will enhance students' view on official statistics as well as prepare those who pursue a career in government. Often there is a gap between what staff of National Statistical System has learned in their studies and what is needed to perform well in the official statistics setting.

Key Items

In this regard, the Stats Café provides an opportunity to bridge the gap between official statistics and university curriculum by inviting lecturers on statistics to discuss this topic.

- How are official statistics taught in universities?
- What kinds of support from governments, international agencies and other stakeholders will be helpful for teaching data and official statistics in universities?
- What kinds of elements should be included in the curriculum to ensure that students are better prepared to work for official statistics?



Welcome

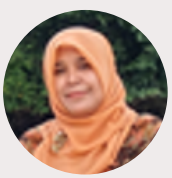
Gemma Van Halderen
Director, Statistics Division
ESCAP

Panelists



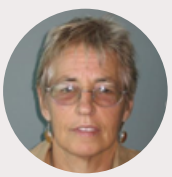
Lisa Grace S. Bersales, PhD
Professor of Statistics at the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Statistics and Vice President for Planning and Finance of the UP System

Dr. Bersales was the first National Statistician of the Philippines and served in this capacity from 2014 to 2019, heading the Philippine Statistics Authority. Her recent research papers include: Measuring the Contribution of the Informal Economy to Philippine Economic Growth in the context of a Pandemic; Big Data in the Philippines: How Do We Actually Use them; Team Approach in the Conduct of Households Survey; and, The Multidimensional Approach to Measuring Poverty.



Erni Tri Astuti, PhD
Lecturer/ Director
Politeknik Statistika STIS
BPS Statistics Indonesia

Dr. Astuti earned her PhD in statistics from Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember Surabaya in 2013. She has been lecturing in Politeknik Statistika STIS-BPS Statistics Indonesia since 1994. She worked as a vice chairman for Academic Affair, from 2013 to 2018 and as a head of statistics department from 2007 to 2008 at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Statistik. Her research interest is in Non-parametric Regression, Modeling Count Response and Analysis of Mortality Rate.



Sharleen Forbes
Director, StatEd Consultancy
New Zealand

On retirement, Sharleen had two half-time positions: Adjunct Professor of Official Statistics in the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington and General Manager, Statistics Education at Statistics New Zealand. She previously held a variety of research, policy and management positions in New Zealand state sector agencies including the Ministries of Agriculture and Maori Affairs. Her most recent work was developing draft content for an UNITAR e-learning course, Understanding data and statistics better – for more effective SDG decision making, and advising on New Zealand's review of national assessments in its senior secondary schools.



Moderated by

Makoto Shimizu
Officer-in-Charge
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
ESCAP

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNITED NATIONS SIAP
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Stats Café
Good coffee makes your day, but good data helps you decide.