ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

CONCEPT NOTE

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Counting Down to the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2026

Statistics Division, ESCAP
16 November 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. UTC+7)

Background

Trust is a fundamental building block for official statistics and in an era where data are becoming increasingly available and transferred at rapid rates, trust has become even more essential. Building and maintaining trust require robust and visible quality assurance frameworks to systematically embed and clearly communicate quality from production to usage of official statistics.

In recognition of the importance of trust, the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2026 will take place from 30 November to 4 December under the theme *"Building Trust in Official Statistics"*. Central to the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week is the tenth session of the Committee on Statistics (CST10) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)[1] which will

[1] Tenth session of the Committee on Statistics

be held from 2 to 4 December 2026 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Week will commence with the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), from 30 November to 1 December, where SIAP's activities and achievements throughout 2026 will be highlighted enabling discussion and decision on work plan for the following year.

On 1 December, the twenty-first SIAP Management Seminar for heads of national statistical offices will facilitate in-depth deliberation on building trust in official statistics in a digital society with the view to generating key insights for the tenth session of the Committee on Statistics.

The tenth session of the Committee on Statistics will bring together heads of national statistical offices and senior government officials to discuss progress made since the last session, share experiences on building trust in official statistics, and decide on the work of the Committee in the coming years. Several side events and associated events on a variety of topics such as AI, using official statistics in decision-making processes, and inclusive leadership across statistical systems will take place throughout the week.

Objectives

ESCAP is organizing an Asia-Pacific Stats Café session to showcase various aspects of the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week preparing potential participants for a week of deliberation and actions on building trust in official statistics. The Stats Café will:

- Outline the programme of the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2026 with a focus on the official segments of the tenth session of the Committee on Statistics and events related to the theme of trust.
- Introduce and discuss papers prepared for the Committee session on progress made since the ninth session of the Committee, building trust in official statistics in a digital era, and embedding quality assurance as a foundation for trust in official statistics.
- Provide an overview of administrative and logistical processes for participating in the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week including letters of credentials, country statements, and registration.

Agenda

Time	Agenda
11:00 – 11:05 (5 mins)	**OPENING**

	Welcoming participants to the Asia-Pacific Stats Café session by Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP
11:05 – 11:15 (10 mins)	**PRESENTATION ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC STATISTICS WEEK 2026** Ms. Rachael Beaven, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP
11:15 – 12:00 (45 mins)	**PANEL DISCUSSION ON KEY PAPERS FOR THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS** Moderator: Ms. Rachael Beaven, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP The panel enables discussion on the three key papers for the tenth session of the Committee on Statistics. It will start with 5-mins lightning presentations on main arguments and decisions for all three papers, followed by reflections by expert discussants. ESCAP/CST(10)/2: Progress in advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in implementing decisions taken by the Committee at its ninth session: **Presenter:** Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Head, Statistical Data Management Unit, Statistics Division, ESCAP ESCAP/CST(10)/4: Building trust in official statistics in a digital society **Presenter:** Ms. Petra Nahmias, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP ESCAP/CST(10)/5: Embedding quality assurance as a foundation for trust in official statistics **Presenter:** Ms. Patricia Wong Bi Yi, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP **Discussants:** - Mr. Koh Eng Chuan, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics, Singapore - Mr. Ahmed Riyaz, Chief Statistician, Maldives Bureau of Statistics - Ms Aritita Tekaieti, Republic Statistician, Kiribati National Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance & Economic - Mr. Rustem Makhammadiev, Deputy Chairman, National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Mr. Maxat Turlubayev, Head of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan
12:00 – 12:10 (10 mins)	**OVERVIEW OF LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CST10 PARTICIPANTS** Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP

12:10 – 12:25 (15 mins)	**Q&A** Moderator: Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP
12:25 – 12:30 (5 mins)	**WRAP-UP AND CLOSING** Mr. Sovannaroth Tey, Associate Statistician, Statistics Division, ESCAP