1. Introduction:

1. Between 2009-2013, ILO statistical work and assistance to the 34 member States from the Asia and the Pacific Region covered the following three major areas: (1) training in labour statistics and decent work indicators, (2) support to implementation of labour force surveys or other data collection exercises including support to measurement of specific areas such as (i) informal employment, (ii) labour migration, and the overall measurement and dissemination of (iii) decent work indicators and the production of decent work country profiles, and (3) statistical development in coordination with the UNESCAP and other development partners in the Region.

2. Training and regional meetings in labour statistics and/or in the gathering and use of labour market information:

2. The following major training activities were organised by ILO in collaboration with regional partners:

a) Support to statistical related meeting/training activities of constituents and social partners in countries and sub-regional bodies such as the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its Heads of Statistical Offices Meetings (AHSOM) in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and advocacy for labour statistics to be a priority for ASEAN member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat;

b) The Workshop (as a follow-up on the above) on Labour Market Information and Analysis in ASEAN Countries (Brunei, 2–4 March 2010), in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the ASEAN Secretariat;

c) The Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work in Asia (Bangkok, 28-30 June 2010), organized by the ILO-EC MAP Project;

d) The Technical Training Course on Labour Statistics and Labour Market Information and Analysis in the Pacific (Noumea, New Caledonia, 28 November - 2 December 2011), jointly organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the

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1 Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work (MAP).
3. Support to Asia and the Pacific member States in data collection exercises and dissemination of labour statistics:

4. ILO support to data collection exercises of labour statistics in 2009-2013 covered the following major activities:

a) Preparation and implementation of national labour force surveys (LFS), including LFS proposals preparations and training in basic LFS concepts, especially for countries with no regular data collection systems of labour statistics such as: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, and Western Samoa; the above included also support in the collection of labour statistics through population censuses (such as in Maldives and Myanmar);

b) Support to building regular labour statistics system at national and provincial levels, including in the development of methodologies for provincial labour force surveys and analysis, targeting statistically more advanced countries such as: Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam;

c) Data collection of labour statistics covering selected thematic areas such as school-to-work transition surveys (in collaboration with the ILO Work For Youth- W4Y Programme) and child labour surveys (in collaboration with the ILO Child Labour Programme- IPEC/SIMPOC), such as in: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Western Samoa; and

d) In collaboration with various ILO departments (such as DWT- Bangkok, DWT- Delhi, EMP/SKILLS, EMP/TRENDS, LAB/ADMIN, etc), support was provided to member States in the collection of labour statistics from administrative records through
development of/ improvements in national or regional labour market information systems, such as in: Bangladesh (research and systems development for the collection of skills related data), Cambodia (support to employment services LMI), India (research on data gaps and institutional arrangements as inputs to a national LMIS strategy), Lao PDR (support to employment services LMI), Malaysia (development of an integrated national LMI and “data warehouse”), Pakistan (institutional support for provincial LMI units), Sri Lanka (labour inspections and skills/VET related statistics), and Viet Nam (support to the design and development of a labour market information system in key provinces such as through the ILO-EC Project “Better Information for Creating Jobs and Developing Skills in Vietnam”).

5. ILO has also been encouraging and providing technical assistance to member States in Asia and the Pacific such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Thailand, and Timor Leste in the measurement of labour migration through labour force surveys. ILO provided assistance particularly to ASEAN Secretariat, member States, and social partners in the collection of labour migration data, with the objective of contributing to existing databases on labour migration covering the Region (within ILO databases such as ILOSTAT, or from social partners’ databases such as MISA- Migration Information System in Asia).

6. Four Asia member States (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) received additional ILO support in the production of a wide range of decent work indicators covering all elements of the decent work agenda, and in the preparation and publication of decent work country profiles (thanks to the ILO/EC Project on “Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work- MAP”). The Office provided also support and training to selected countries in the tabulation of working poverty indicators, such as in Mongolia and Pakistan.

7. Within the Region’s work on youth employment and the ILO support to the Asia Pacific Youth Employment Network (APYouthNet serves to connect constituents active in youth employment policy and programme design to share progress, technical capabilities, advice and partnerships in countries and across the Asia-Pacific region), ILO (ROAP) has gathered and produced an overview of key youth employment indicators for selected 20 member States based on the latest available data; these indicators are available to constituents through the APYouthNet website (http://apyouthnet.ilo.org/stats) and are updated on regular basis.

4. ILO statistical development work with UNESCAP and other UN partners in Asia and the Pacific Region (2009-2013):
8. ILO contributed to the work of UNESCAP on statistical development in the Region through three main Working Groups: the WG on Economic Statistics, the WG on Population and Social Statistics, and the Thematic WG on Gender Statistics. The focus of UN support to member States statistical development in 2011-2013 was mainly on the development of Core Sets of statistical Indicators in areas covered by the above WGs, and the preparation of regional programmes of support to the production of these indicators by all member States by 2020.

9. Between 2009 and 2013 ILO has also regularly contributed to the employment section of the UNESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific.

10. As a follow-up to the preparation of the recent UN and Delhi Group manual on informal employment and informal sector, ILO started working with UNESCAP and other development partners (such as the Asian Development Bank, ADB) and regional communities (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations- ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation- SAARC, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community- SPC) to support Asia Pacific member States (such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, etc) in the measurement of the informal employment and informal sector; this included advising national definitions of the informal sector and informal employment, and advocating for the regular measurement of the informal employment through regular labour force surveys or other household-based surveys.

5. Future ILO’s work, particularly in the next biennium:

11. Following the recent adoption of the Resolution on "Statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization" by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (19th ICLS, October 2013; further reference: http://www.ilo.org/stat/), the ILO will focus its work in the coming years on promoting its implementation. Activities planned will include: (i) dissemination and communication of the new standards, (ii) development of new technical manuals and model data collection instruments, (iii) capacity building activities through regional and national training on the new resolution, and (iv) direct support to countries for the new measurement through technical assistance on labour force surveys, and on the analysis and presentation of work statistics.

12. Capacity building and dissemination will involve working with regional partners and countries in the Asia-Pacific that have been supporting ILO’s work and particularly on the new Resolution. ILO is currently discussing with China for a regional training on the new Resolution for Asian Pacific member States, to be possibly held in China for the second half of 2014, in collaboration with UNESCAP and UNSD. ILO has also
started discussions with the SPC on planning a regional training for the Pacific Islands, a repeat of a similar training in 2011 with a focus on disseminating the new standards from the Resolution.

13. The 19th ICLS identified also a number of areas that need further progress in terms of measurement, and has called on ILO to continue its methodological work and develop appropriate measurement standards on these areas for review by the next ICLS, i.e. the 20th ICLS. These include:
   a. Measurement of labour underutilization or inadequate employment related to skills, employment-related income, and excessive working time;
   b. Measurement of forced labour;
   c. Labour migration statistics;
   d. And other areas such as: statistics of cooperatives, statistics on work-related violence, statistics on green jobs, etc.

14. A major activity planned at global level but that will involve Asia Pacific member States and partners is the revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment of 1993 (ICSE 93), which will be indeed quite a natural follow up to the agreed Resolution, and which is also expected for discussions in the 20th ICLS.