Thank you, Chair

1. SIAP has been responsible for the function of hub of statistical training not only in the ESCAP region but also globally since it was established in 1970, almost half a century ago, and high expectations have been put in place for its role in responding to SDGs in recent years.

2. The Government of Japan highly appreciates the various support for SIAP including cash and in-kind contributions by the ESCAP members and associate members and international organizations. Japan, as the host government to SIAP, will provide maximum support, and would also like to ask the members and associate members and international organizations for continued support to SIAP in order to smoothly implement its programme.