The national statistical offices in the region are often faced with issues around a lack of staff, attracting and retaining talent, and the need to diversify the traditional skills base to include, among others, management, communication, coordination, ICT and data mining. To have the necessary skills for the 21st century, national statistical systems have to evolve into learning organizations, fostering innovation and continuous modernization and transformation.

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific has been developing skills of officials in the countries in the region for the last fifty years. The institute has improved capabilities of the national statistical systems in the collection, compilation and analysis of data to meet planning and development needs and is now focusing on the development of capabilities for monitoring the SDGs.

The session will commence with a short video on the achievements of the institute and its future approach. This will be followed by a short presentation by its Director on challenges and opportunities of capacity development in the 21st century. Thereafter, we hear from three authors how they are responding to the needs of the 21st century. Enumerator skills and training in violence against women surveys is discussed by the UN Population Fund, results of a pilot kNwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women will be shared, and China will discuss talent development mechanisms, innovation of talent training modes and strengthening of talent incentives.

Authors will reflect on their papers by
1. Sharing their definition of what ‘appropriate’ means in the case of guidance material and training in support of the statistical requirements for the 2030 Agenda
2. Outlining how their country assures availability of skillsets to enable the continuous generation of statistical products and services required for monitoring national development plans and the 2030 Agenda
3. Outlining how their country assures capable management and sufficiency of human resources to enable the continuous generation of statistical products and services required for monitoring national development plans and the 2030 Agenda