SIAP has been responsible for the function as the hub of global statistical training, since it was established in 1970, almost half a century ago, as well as in the ESCAP region, and high expectations have been received for its role to respond to SDGs in recent years.

Let me raise two points.

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

My second point concerns SIAP/JICA training courses, which are part of the SIAP training programme. As a result of a JICA annual training needs survey for proposed training courses, a 4-month Post-2015 Course and an 8-week Inclusive Course will be conducted in 2017. In this regard, Japan pays respectful tribute to the secretariat of the ESCAP and the director of SIAP, for your great efforts in recommending the respective countries to set high priorities in the survey. We also express our sincere gratitude to the NSOs that communicated with the agencies in charge of technical cooperation in each country and requested them to give high priority to SIAP/JICA statistical training courses. This JICA needs survey will be conducted again in August next year. We would like to ask for your support to give high priority to these courses just as you did in the last survey.