



**COORDINATORS OF SAARCSTAT
TECHNICAL SUB-GROUPS:
FIRST MEETING**

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 16 April 2008

SAARC/TSG01/8

**SAARCSTAT
TECHNICAL SUB-GROUP ON
CAPACITY BUILDING
BASE PAPER BY INDIA**

Introduction:

1.1 The First Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organisations of the SAARC Member States *inter_alia* decided to constitute a Technical sub-group on Capacity Building which will be coordinated by India.

1.2 The contemporary view of Capacity Building goes beyond the conventional perception of training. It involves both Institutional Capacity Building as well as Human Capacity Building of Statisticians

1.3 Capacity Building encompasses Member country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities. Thus Capacity Building is a long term and continuing process in which all stake-holders participate not only in Training in Statistical methodologies but also about Statistical Management and Administration. The central concern of statistical management – to manage institutional pluralism, to enhance coordination, to foster communication, to ensure that data and information are analysed and shared for policy advocacy, requires a broad and holistic view of capacity development.

Objective:

2.1 The objective of Capacity Building is to attain the sustainable development through ongoing participatory process among SAARC Member States and in so doing, strengthening human resource and institutional capabilities. Human Resource Development is both means and ends of economic growth. Human Resource is really saving potential and qualitative growth of human capital forms human capital. Human Capital formation means process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have skill, education and experience which are critical for economy and potential development. Through Capacity Building, human resource among SAARC Member States may be identified and used for mutual benefit. This may include induction training, refresher training for statistical personnels and training in statistics for non-statistical personnels.

Process:

3.1 The following approaches may be adopted for Capacity Building amongst SAARC Member States :

- (i) Training facilities / institutes in Statistics and related subjects available among SAARC region may be listed subject-wise and put up in the website. Such facilities available from Member States will be consolidated for mutual benefits of Member States.

- (ii) Experts and resources persons on various subjects may be identified from among the Member States. And may be listed and put up in the SAARCSTAT website. Depending on the need countries may enter into bi-lateral agreement on training / consultancy services or even sharing of experts/resource persons.
- (iii) Since the requirement of country is not same for all, various training modules may be prepared keeping into in view country specific needs,.
- (v) Stress may be given to build up quality young statisticians who will run the Statistical system.
- (vi) A quota for partner Member States may be recommended for study and research in Statistics at university level as well as for the professional official Statisticians.

Courses:

4.1 Following priority areas have been identified for training of official Statisticians:

Statistics:

- (i) Statistical Methodology
- (ii) Agricultural Statistics
- (iii) Survey design and sampling
- (iv) Conduct of sample surveys
- (v) Small area estimation
- (vi) Social Statistics
- (vii) Trade Statistics
- (viii) Industrial Statistics and IIP
- (ix) Environment Statistics
- (x) National Accounts
- (xi) Population Statistics,
- (xii) Labour & Employment Statistics,
- (xiii) Transport & Communication Statistics,
- (xiv) Finance & Banking Statistics,
- (xv) Price & Cost of Living Statistics

Developmental Economics:

- (i) Macro & Micro Economics
- (ii) Econometrics including Time Series Analysis
- (iii) Planning and Evaluation Project report preparation

Field Training:

- (i) Field Training for data collection

Related areas:

- (iv) Large Scale data processing
- (v) Management Technique & Human Resource Management
- (vi) Operational Research
- (iv) Software engineering including dataware housing

Specialised course:

In view of new challenges emerged in the area of official statistics, it will be necessary to organize certain specialized refresher courses for the senior Statisticians. A proposed list is given below:

Sl. No	Subject of Training
1.	Management including World Trade Organisation issues
2.	Financial Management
3.	Total Quality Management
4.	Poverty reduction and progress towards Millennium Development goals targets indicator
5.	Disaster Management
6.	Geographic Information System
7.	Management Development
8.	Small Area Estimation
9.	Quantitative techniques in Economics & Statistics
10.	Gender Issues
11.	Environment Statistics and SEEA
12.	Poverty Estimation and Measurement of poverty Alleviation Programmes
13.	Recent Developments in Index numbers
14.	Data Dissemination strategy
15.	Recent Development in IT and its applications for statistical computing

Institution Building:

4.1 Efforts may be made to ensure that all Member States have National Training Institutes of international standard for Human Resource Development in Statisticians. Besides, institutions may be identified, which may need to be strengthened after proper assessment of their strength and weaknesses. Each Member States may also such training facility at sub-national level. Training facilities in Statistics available in India in also annexed.

Statistical Training Facilities in India

One of the missions of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOS&PI), Government of India is “to promote human resource development in the official statistics and encourage research and development in theoretical and applied statistics”. To achieve this, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), MOS&PI, conducts/organizes need-based training programmes for the statistical personnel. The Training Division of the CSO organizes these training programmes in house and also in close collaboration with institutes/organizations of national repute in the specialized subjects. A high level committee, Training Programmes Approval Committee (TPAC), comprising senior Indian Statistical Service (ISS) officers, periodically reviews inter alia the scope, coverage, periodicity, frequency and training methodology of these courses. The subject areas of training include (a) Official Statistics; (b) Theoretical and Applied Statistics; (c) Economic Theory and Econometrics; (d) Social Statistics including demography studies; (e) Computer Science and Information Technology; (f) Management Skills and (g) Office Administration and Financial Management.

The training programmes to be conducted during an year are incorporated in Training Calendar prepared each year which is available on the website of the Ministry namely, www.mospi.nic.in.

Training Programmes Presently Available

Various training programmes presently available in India can be grouped under three broad heads, namely (a) Training programmes on Official Statistics conducted by the Training division of CSO, (b) Education and Research facilities available at Indian Statistical Institute, and (c) International Training Programmes.

A. Training Course on Official Statistics

I. Probationary Training Programme for directly recruited ISS officers

For effective management of Indian statistical System, the Government of India constituted a Statistical cadre namely Indian Statistical Service (ISS). The Training Division organizes a two-year Probationary Training for the officers recruited to the Indian Statistical Service, before they take over the responsibility in various Government Departments and Ministries. The course curricula of the Probationary Training are so devised as to bring all the entrants to the service to a common level. Since the ISS officers are the managers of the Official Statistical System in the country, some relevant aspects of management and office administration procedures are also included in the course. The detailed syllabus is given below:-

Topic	Course Duration
Foundational Course	15 weeks
Office procedure and Administration	2 weeks
Official statistics	13 weeks
Macro & Micro Economics	4 weeks
Econometrics including Time Series Analysis	4 weeks
Planning and Evaluation	2 weeks
Sample survey, Small area Statistics and recent development in statistics	6 weeks
Operation Research	4 weeks
Software Engineering	18 weeks
Project report preparation	6 Weeks
Management Technique & Human Resource Management	3 weeks
On the Job Training	4 Weeks
Field Training	10 weeks
Other Training and Administrative Formalities	13 weeks

II. Refresher Training programmes for in-service ISS Officers:

Periodic short-term training to the in-service ISS officers refreshes the knowledge and skill and thereby induces flexibility and broadens the outlook and perceptibility of the officers. To enable the ISS officers to imbibe these qualities, the Training Division conducts/organizes various refresher courses periodically on selected important, relevant and emerging areas of interest. The Training Division will organize twenty-one (21) such training programmes for in-service ISS officers during 2005-06 as given below:-

Refresher courses proposed to be organized during 2005-06 session for in-service ISS officers

Sl. No	Subject of Training	Proposed Period	Level
1.	Management including World Trade Organisation issues	Dec., 2005	DDG/Dir
2.	Financial Management	Oct., 2005	DDG/Dir
3.	Total Quality Management	November, 2005	DDG/Dir
4.	Poverty reduction and progress towards Millennium Development goals targets indicator	March, 2006	DDG/Dir
5.	Disaster Management	August, 2005	DDG/Dir
6.	Geographic Information System	Nov., 2005	JD/DD/AD
7.	Management Development	Sept., 2005	JD/DD/AD
8.	Small Area Estimation	July, 2005	JD/DD/AD
9.	Quantitative techniques in Economics &	January, 2006	JD/DD/AD

	Statistics		
10.	Gender Issues	Sept., 2005	JD/DD/AD
11.	Environment Statistics	August, 2005	JD/DD/AD
12.	Poverty Estimation and Measurement of poverty Alleviation Programmes	July, 2005	JD/DD/AD
13.	Recent Developments in Index numbers	November, 2005	JD/DD/AD
14.	Demography	February, 2006	JD/DD/AD
15.	Data Dissemination	March, 2006	JD/DD/AD
16.	Recent Development in IT and its applications for statistical computing	March, 2006	JD/DD/AD
17.	Website design and Management	January, 2006	JD/DD/AD
18.	SPSS	August, 2005	JD/DD/AD
19.	MS Access	October, 2005	JD/DD/AD
20.	Visual Basic. Net	Sept., 2005	JD/DD/AD
21.	Introduction to Data Warehouse	Feb., 2006	JD/DD/AD

Note:- DDG = Deputy Director General Dir = Director
 JD = Joint Director DD= Deputy Director AD = Assistant Director

III. Training programmes for Non-ISS Statistical Personnel of Central Government Departments/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings

Besides the statisticians belonging to the cadre of Indian Statistical Service, there are a large number of statisticians who are working in various other organisations & State Governments. The Training Division conducts two-week short duration training courses for this Statistical Personnel working in the Central Ministries/departments, State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings. The training programmes scheduled during 2005-06 are outlined below :

Area of training:

- i. Agricultural Statistics (21 November to 2 December 2005)
- ii. Industrial, Trade and Services Statistics (Including Transport Communication and Finance) (20 February to 3 March 2006)
- iii. Labour, Employment & Price Statistics (22 August to 22 September 2005)
- iv. Social Statistics including Population Statistics (4 July to 15 July 2005)
- v. National Accounts Statistics & National Resource Accounting (5 December to 16 December 2005)
- vi. Sample Surveys and Organisation of Large Scale Sample Surveys (23 Jan to 3 February 2006)
- vii. Computer level I-Foundation course on Information Technology including Data Analysis and Presentation Skills (4 July to 15 July 2005)
- viii. Computer level II –Electronic data processing (22 August to 2 September 2005)
- ix. Computer level III –Advanced IT Technology on Networking & RDBMS (5 September to 16 September 2005)

IV. Training Programmes for Subordinate Statistical Service officials

The Training Division has also been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing Induction Training for around three thousand eight hundred statistical personnel at primary and secondary level of the newly constituted Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS). It is proposed to organize training programmes simultaneously at different “training hubs” all over the country and also at the Training Division, CSO, New Delhi. Trainings of Trainers (TOT) are organized at the Training Division, CSO. These trainers, in turn, will train the officials at different hubs. Till now, two such programmes have been organized during 1st to 12th August 2005 and 5th to 16th September, 2005, and 38 trainers have been trained. Countrywide training of the SSS officers will commence from 17th November 2005.

B. Education and Research facilities in Statistics available in the Universities and other Professional Statistical Institutes

I. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata

The Indian Statistical Institute (an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) plays a very dominant role in the advancement of theoretical and applied statistics in India. It’s headquarters is located at Kolkata. It has five regional centres across the country located at New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Giridih. The institute offers academic degrees/ research facilities not only on Statistics and Mathematics but also in various branches of Natural and Social Sciences like Physics, Statistical Quality Control and Operations Research, Library and Information Sciences etc.

The International Statistical Institute and the Indian Statistical Institute, under the auspices of UNESCO and the Government of India, operate International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC) jointly. The Centre provides training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels for the selected participants from the countries in the Middle East, South and South – East Asia, the Far east, and the Common wealth countries in Africa. The participants to this course are sponsored by respective governments. In addition, special courses of varying duration are also organised.

The ISI actively participates in exchange programmes with various developed and developing countries. Distinguished scientists visit ISI each year to attend various Workshops, Conferences, Seminars, etc. and also to participate in collaborative research, teaching and other scientific activities.

For training on Official Statistics for the students of M. Stat. (Master of Statistics), the students are sent to the Central Statistical Organisation every year. This course comprises one-week lectures on various areas of official statistics and a two-week project on selected topics. This year, this programme was conducted during 16th May to 3rd June 2005.

II. Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi

IASRI is a premier Academic and research institute located in New Delhi, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) a part of Ministry of Agriculture. It conducts research, education and training in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications in Agriculture. The following are some of the important areas of operations among other functions of the institute:

(i) To undertake basic, applied and adaptive research leading to new developments in Agricultural Statistics and related fields for bridging of gaps in the application of statistical techniques to the problems of agricultural research.

(ii) To conduct post-graduate and in-service training courses in agricultural statistics and Computer applications in agriculture.

(iii) To liaise with ICAR Institute, State agricultural Universities, State agricultural/ Animal Husbandry/ Veterinary Sciences departments etc. and undertaking sponsored research and training for national and international Organisations.

III. Post-graduate courses at various Indian Universities

There are more than sixty (60) universities at Post-Graduate levels offer mathematical Statistics and Applied Statistics. A few universities have included Official Statistics in their curriculum. Efforts are being made to introduce Official Statistics in many more the universities in the country.

IV. Institute for Research in Medical & Health Statistics (IRMS), New Delhi

IRMS is a premier institute in the field of academic and applied research in the field of health statistics. This institute works under the Indian Council of Medical Research. The institute specializes in applied health statistics and works as a consultant to the Government on various health related surveys.

V. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

IIPS is a premier institution on demographic studies and interacts with the Government of India on various issues relating to population and health.

C. International Training programmes on Official Statistics

I. Course for the students of International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), Kolkata

A regular course on ‘Official Statistics & Related Methodology’, which forms a part of the Diploma Course in Statistics organized by the International Statistical Education Centre [ISEC], Kolkata under Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), is conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation of the Ministry of Statistics and P.I. The participants of this course belong to developing countries and are selected by the ISI, Kolkata. The course on Official Statistics comprises of the following two modules:

Module I: Official Statistics and Related Methodology (General Course)

Duration: 4 weeks

Broad topics covered:

Statistical System & Organisation, Population Statistics, Labour & Employment Statistics, Agriculture & Allied Statistics, Industrial statistics, Mining & Energy Statistics, Transport & Communication Statistics, Finance & Banking Statistics, Price & Cost of Living Statistics, Social Statistics, National Accounts Statistics, Organization of Large Scale Surveys, Data Requirements for Planning, Environment Statistics and Data Processing.

Module II: Subject-specific specialised course in Official Statistics

Duration: 2 weeks

During this period the participants are provided detailed training in the selected areas like National Accounts Statistics, Social Statistics, Index Numbers etc., which include lectures, practicals and field visits. This year, the programme is scheduled during the period 4th October-11th November 2005.

II. International Programmes in collaboration with UNSIAP and Study-tours

Besides regular courses for international students of ISEC as mentioned above, India conducts specialised programme for foreign delegates directly or in collaboration with UNSIAP. During the 2005-06, following study visits of foreign statisticians have been/would be organized:

- (i) A study visit of officials of Statistical Centre of Iran was conducted during 2-6 May 2005.
- (ii) A Sub-Regional Training Workshop in collaboration with UNSIAP on "Industrial Statistics" is scheduled during 13-18 February 2006.

D. National Academy of Statistical Administration

To cater to the training needs of official statisticians of India and those of the demands from other countries, Govt. of India is setting up a Central Training Facility in the periphery of New Delhi. It is likely to be in position by the end of March 2007. This Central Training Facility would ultimately be transformed into "National Academy of Statistical Administration" and would provide for statistical research and training on official and related statistics under one roof. This academy will have the state of the art technology and world-class facilities for effective training in the field of statistics.
