

## **Statistical capacity building activities involving SPECA countries by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

ECE-ESCAP-SPECA/PWG-Statistics/2009/9  
ECE/CES/GE57/2009/9

### 1. Ongoing activities

- 1.1 Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
  - 1.1.1 Four residential training courses in Tokyo, including a two-month training course in collection and analysis of official economic statistics for Central Asian and Caucasus Countries
  - 1.1.2 Outreach training courses, subregional and national
  - 1.1.3 Facilitation of cooperation among national statistical training institutes
  - 1.1.4 Piloting distance training and e-learning
- 1.2 Measurement of disability (2004-2009)
  - 1.2.1 Two successive United Nations Development Account projects; WHO, Washington Group, UNSD, ECE
  - 1.2.2 Development of an extended question set for surveys.
  - 1.2.3 Kazakhstan is one of the seven countries taking part in the field testing of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics extended question set: cognitive and pilot testing in March 2009. Training of enumerators in August 2009 followed by field test
  - 1.2.4 Most technical documents produced by the project have been or will be translated into Russian
- 1.3 (Measurement of informal sector and informal employment, 2007-2009)
  - 1.3.1 Interregional Development Account project led by ESCAP
  - 1.3.2 Development of survey methodology, pilot data collection, guidelines
  - 1.3.3 No SPECA involvement yet
- 1.4 MDG-related activities
  - 1.4.1 Tripartite ESCAP/ADB/UNDP project
    - 1.4.1.1 Tracking of progress towards MDGs in the region
    - 1.4.1.2 Regional MDG reports
    - 1.4.1.3 Advocacy activities on MDGs in policy making
    - 1.4.1.4 Technical papers
  - 1.4.2 Disparities between national and international MDG estimates

### 2. Planned activities 2009-

- 2.1 SIAP
  - 2.1.1 Regular Training programme continues, including the course in collection and analysis of official economic statistics for Central Asian and Caucasus Countries, 21 July - 18 September
  - 2.1.2 Development and sharing of e-learning materials
- 2.2 Supporting Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-based development strategies through integrated regional action 2009-2011
  - 2.2.1 United Nations Development Account project where ECE takes the lead on statistical activities in Central Asia
  - 2.2.2 ESCAP's activities focusing on disaggregated MDG statistics (four workshops) involve the rest of the Asian and Pacific region and are primarily conducted by its Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. SIAP plans to conduct two workshops in 2009 and two in 2010.
  - 2.2.3 ESCAP Unit for Countries with Special Needs will implement additional activities targeting policy makers

- 2.3 Regional Workshops in late 2009 to share findings of ongoing projects with a wider audience
  - 2.3.1 Improvement of Disability Measurement and Statistics in Support of the Biwako Millennium Framework and Regional Census Programme (see ongoing activities above)
  - 2.3.2 Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment (2007-2009)
  - 2.3.3 Selected Governments (relevant ministry/NSO) will be invited and funded to attend
- 2.4 Tripartite ESCAP/ADB/UNDP MDG intervention continues
  - 2.4.1 Supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, Phase III, 2009-2011
  - 2.4.2 Statistics will remain a core area in capacity building: disaggregated MDG data and their use for policy making
  - 2.4.3 Regional MDG reports with partners
  - 2.4.4 Capacity building for engaging in and using sub-regional and regional cooperation in support of MDG achievement
- 2.5 Regional advisory services
  - 2.5.1 Governments can request advisory services by writing to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP
  - 2.5.2 A wide range of socio-economic statistics, including development indicators, is covered. The requests can be related to areas such as improvement and implementation of international standards and good practices in
    - 2.5.2.1 Survey, including sampling and questionnaire, design
    - 2.5.2.2 Data collection, editing, analysis, documentation and archiving
    - 2.5.2.3 Dissemination of statistics, including anonymized microdata
    - 2.5.2.4 Quality and capacity assessments
    - 2.5.2.5 Construction and review of indicators and indices
    - 2.5.2.6 National accounts and related economic statistics
    - 2.5.2.7 Measuring special areas, such as disability and informal employment
    - 2.5.2.8 Any other area of official statistics or administrative records for statistical purposes
    - 2.5.2.9 Strategic planning, institutional and organizational development
- 2.6 Outcomes of the first session of the Committee on Statistics, 4-6 February 2009
  - 2.6.1 Bureau set to work between the biennial sessions; Kazakhstan elected to the Bureau for 2009-2010
  - 2.6.2 Regional action plan to improve economic statistics
  - 2.6.3 Improvement of vital statistics
  - 2.6.4 Support for population and housing censuses
  - 2.6.5 Gender statistics
- 2.7 See updated calendar of statistical meetings in Asia and the Pacific, [http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/events\\_Asia\\_Pacific.asp](http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/events_Asia_Pacific.asp)
  - 2.7.1 EGM on data exchange technologies planned for Q3/2009