
**Note on the Proposed Action Plan on Training in Statistics
for Staff of International Organizations**

**(Prepared by the IMF Statistics Department for the 7th Meeting of the Committee for
the Coordination of Statistical Activities, New York, March 6, 2006)**

Introduction

This note provides a summary of developments on issues pertaining to statistical training since the 6th Meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) in Rome during September 12–14, 2005. The presentation focuses mainly on the proposed Action Plan on training in statistics for staff of international organizations (see below). During its last meeting, the CCSA took note of the presentation by the IMF of a paper (document SA/2005/14), which assessed existing training initiatives in international organizations for their staff. The CCSA agreed to establish a network of representatives from all agencies to exchange information and training materials and explore new activities. The IMF agreed to continue to play a leading role and develop an action plan to be presented to the 7th Meeting of the CCSA in March 2006. It was also expected that (a) members would nominate representatives and send the pertinent information and training materials to the IMF by end-October 2005; (b) agencies carrying out training courses would explore whether it would be feasible for them to include statisticians from other agencies and to assess legal and financial implications; and (c) information on the work of the network and training materials would be posted on the CCSA website.

Developments since the last CCSA meeting

As a follow-up action, the IMF contacted all CCSA member organizations and requested them to follow up on the issues arising from the previous CCSA meeting. As a result, we have been provided with a list of representatives from various organizations (see Attachment I). However, the sharing of training materials, their posting on the CCSA website, and the exploration among organizations on whether it would be feasible for them to include statisticians from other agencies and to assess legal and financial implications are still pending. There are several underlying problems explaining these delayed events. First, as identified in the paper (SA/2005/14), many organizations were, and probably are, still not using the Internet effectively in posting and centralizing all their training information and materials on a website. Second, the CCSA website for training is still to be established by one of the CCSA organizations. These two steps are indeed essential to some of the proposed follow-up actions. Third, actions by individual organizations to explore the feasibility of

including statisticians from other agencies in their training programs and the legal and financial implications would probably need to be spearheaded by someone or a group to ensure full coordination among the CCSA member organizations.

To address these problems and other pertinent issues, the proposed Action Plan below includes a number of measures to support further progress. The list of measures also takes into account some of the recommendations of the paper on training previously discussed by the CCSA meeting.

Proposed Action Plan

The proposed Action Plan has been circulated to the designated network representatives for comments, which are reflected in the revised version. In addition, in order to jump-start the implementation of the Action Plan, a number of organizations have volunteered to contribute to the proposed topics as indicated below.

The following actions are proposed:

1. **To create a network of people responsible for statistical training in member organizations.** We are actually halfway to accomplishing this (see Attachment I). If agreeable to set up this formal coordinating group, the IMF will coordinate this group, which would include a subgroup of the working group leaders to spearhead the Action Plan. This group would collect the list of training courses and materials where available by mid-March 2006 (see some examples in Attachments II and III, which would need to be updated for either calendar year 2006 or fiscal year 2006/07), ready to forward to the CCSA website proposed in item 2 below.
2. **To set up a CCSA website to facilitate the sharing of information and statistical training materials among the CCSA member organizations.** The website would be supported by hyperlinks to websites of each CCSA member organization. Where organizations have not set up training websites, encourage them to do so and centralize all training programs and materials to the website.
3. **To encourage establishment of focus groups in each organization to promote internal statistical training and establish the training gaps that need to be filled.** This information should be shared among the CCSA organizations through the training networks in (1) above.
4. **Each organization to identify the circumstances and conditions under which statisticians from other organizations can attend their training courses.** Further, each organization to set out terms and conditions for staff interchanges. This information to be included in the CCSA website.
5. **To explore opportunities for better funding for and greater awareness of statistical training internally and across international organizations.** The World Bank

has agreed to team up with PARIS21 to coordinate a small working group of some of the members of the training network to undertake this work.

CCSA endorsement of the above actions is sought. Any further suggestions on how we can facilitate inter-agency cooperation in training our own staff is welcome.

Attachments (3)

Revised, February 21, 2006

CCSA Training Focal Persons

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2. Mr. Graham Eele, Senior Statistician – Geele@worldbank.org
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5. Ms. Neda Jafar, Statistician, ESCWA – jafarn@un.org
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12. Mr. Philippe Mesny, Head of International financial Statistics, BIS – Philippe.Mesny@bis.org
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16. Dr. Dimitri Sanga, Senior Statistician, Economic and Social Policy Division, UNECA - dsanga@unec.org
17. Mr. R.J. Pember, Labour Statistician, ILO – pember@ilo.org

IMF Statistics Department Internal Training Program, 2005/2006

Joint Seminars¹

Title	Date
External Debt	May 2005
Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001	July 2005
Financial Soundness Indicators	December 2005
Balance Sheet Approach	April 2006

Internal Seminars²

	2005
The Cost of Sovereign Borrowing and the IMF Data Standards (John Cady and Anthony Pellechio)	September
Index Number Theory: Past Progress and Future Challenges (Prof. Erwin Diewert)	October
On Changing a Settlement Data Balance of Payments Compilation System – Experiences from Denmark (Thomas Elkjaer)	November
STA – Internal Training – Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001	December
Strategy and Development of the ESCB’s Monetary, Financial Institutions and Market Statistics (Michel Stubbe)	December
	2006
Providing Official Statistics for the Common Market and Monetary Union on the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) – A Case for “GULFSTAT” (Claudia Dziobek)	January
Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (STA presentation to staff in the Fiscal Affairs Department)	February

¹ Offered with the IMF Institute for all Fund staff. These seminars were also presented (will be presented) internally to STA staff prior to presenting them Fundwide.

² Monthly seminars, which are flexibly organized to accommodate visiting lecturers’ schedules and ongoing departmental projects.

STA Courses Through the IMF Institute Training Program, CY 2006

Center¹	Course Title	Begin Date
BT (Brazil)	External Debt Statistics	3/20/2006
BT	Financial Soundness Indicators	7/3/2006
BT	Government Financial Statistics	10/30/2006
BT	Monetary and Financial Statistics	11/27/2006
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CT (China)	Seminar on Statistics for Cross-Border Capital Flows	10/9/2006
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HQ	Government Finance Statistics	2/21/2006
HQ	Balance of Payments Statistics	5/15/2006
HQ	Monetary and Financial Statistics	8/28/2006
HQ	National Accounts Statistics	9/11/2006
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JA (Tunisia)	Monetary and Financial Statistics	3/6/2006
JA	Government Financial Statistics	5/15/2006
JA	Balance of Payments Statistics	11/27/2006
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JV (Vienna)	Financial Soundness Indicators	5/1/2006
JV	Government Financial Statistics	7/24/2006
JV	Price Statistics	10/23/2006
JV	Balance of Payments Statistics	11/27/2006
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ST (Singapore)	Monetary and Financial Statistics	5/20/2006
ST	Balance of Payments Statistics	3/20/2006
ST	Financial Soundness Indicators	5/22/2006

Source: IMF Institute.

¹ Abbreviations refer to the following course types: Joint Regional Training Center for Latin America, Brasilia (BT), Joint China-IMF Training Program (CT), IMF Institute, Washington D.C. (HQ), Internal Economics Training Program-IMF, Washington D.C. (IT), Joint Africa Institute (JA), Joint Vienna Institute (JV), IMF-AMF Regional Training Program (RT), and IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute (ST).