

**Third Workshop on
Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training In Asia and the Pacific
20-21 November 2007, Bangkok, Thailand**

Country Statement: Macao, China

1. MANDATE AND MISSION

The slogan "**Statistics are here to serve you**" underlines the objective of the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) in delivering services to the society. The statistics produced by DSEC should be information beneficial to the local social and economic development of Macao.

Being the major organization of statistics compilation under Statistical Information System of Macao (SIEM), the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) is responsible for the overall coordination of all the statistical activities in Macao. DSEC has the authority to register, compute, organize and disseminate statistics of demography, economy, society and environment. DSEC has the following missions:

- To implement the objective of "Statistics are here to serve you" that is in line with the people-oriented spirit; to provide timely, accurate and relevant statistical information to members of the public and government departments; to provide enquiry services on statistics to our users;
- To ensure that compilation and dissemination of statistics are conformed to scientific principles, international standards and are in accordance to the actual situation of Macao;
- To build a high-calibre, efficient, enthusiastic and courteous team of statistics professionals that assist the public and businesses in completing survey questionnaires, ensure effective protection of data confidentiality pertaining to individual respondents and establishments.

2. RECRUITMENT

Due to the small population size of Macao, local universities do not offer degree courses major in statistic, statistics is mainly a compulsory subject in other majors like business, economic, mathematics etc. Graduates from these major have basic understanding of statistics. With adequate training, they are usually capable to run general surveys.

Though local universities provide no graduates major in statistics, graduates who had studied overseas or in mainland China can fill this gap. These graduates know well of statistics concepts, methods and the tools, and more important, they are more dedicated in this field.

3. STAFF TURNOVER

Though Macao is experiencing the tightest job market in history due to the opening of new mega resorts and casinos, the overall staff turnover rate in DSEC, fortunately, remains low. Better job security, reasonable salary and less job pressure are still considered advantageous in government jobs.

However, the turnover rate of newly recruited staff is much higher than before. Youngsters find many opportunities in both government and private sectors, retaining young and talented employee become a challenge for the NSO.

4. STAFF TRAINING

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) is responsible for the general training for all public servants in Macao. The trainings provided by SAFP are usually general purposes which aims to enhance the capabilities of staff for all different government departments, such as public administration, management, I.T., languages etc. Training for specialized areas, such as statistics, are not available.

As there is no specialized institution provides professional training in statistics in Macao, statistical training can only be organized by the NSO. However, due to constraints of different kinds, these training programmes organized by DSEC are remains in lower level and are mainly for specific needs of the surveys, higher level of statistical trainings for the statisticians are not available.

Due to the lack of high level statistical training, trainings provided by international organizations like SIAP and ESCAP become a key element in the whole staff training program of DSEC.

Here is the summary of the statistics training activities that the staff of DSEC received in the last three years:

Head count of training received by place and area from 2005 to 2007

PLACE	AREA				TOTAL
	Statistics*	Admin. & Management	I.T.	Language	
MACAO	12	321	127	138	598 (91.8%)
BANGKOK	14	3	1	-	18 (2.8%)
BEIJING	2	10	-	-	12 (1.8%)
MANILA	9	-	-	-	9 (1.4%)
GUANGSHOU	-	6	-	-	6 (0.9%)
PUTRAJAYA	3	1	-	-	4 (0.6%)
DAEJON	1	1	-	-	2 (0.3%)
HONG KONG	-	1	-	-	1 (0.1%)
NEW YORK	1	-	-	-	1 (0.1%)
TOTAL	42 (6.5%)	343 (52.7%)	128 (19.7%)	138 (21.2%)	651 (100%)

* excluding enumerators training

The table above shows a overall picture of the training activities of DSEC in the last three years. It is easy to find out that the no. of training for the subject matter, **statistics**, is little in comparison to training of other areas, the head count of staff who had received statistics training in the last three years is only 42, or 6.5% of the total training head count, and the majority of these training (30 out of 42) were conducted outside of Macao.

5. SHARE OF EXPERIENCE

In order to encourage the exchange of experience and ideas, DSEC organizes in-house presentations of different statistics topics. The presenters are usually the ones in charged of a particular project and the presenters are usually the ones in charged of a particular project and the presentations cover the whole process of the survey, from questionnaire design, to fieldwork and to reports compilation.

6. REGIONAL STATISTICAL TRAINING NETWORK

Due to constraints of manpower, DSEC has not established a formal training centre. The absence of the statistical training centre obstructs the continuous professional development of the internal personnel, and the training activities could only be conducted on ad hoc base.

We believe that a regional statistical training network would be a favorable solution for the training needs of Macao and probably for many member countries as well. One successful experience we have was the First Regional Course on SNA which was hosted by Macao in October 2005, with the coordination of SIAP. In this course, a group of over 30 middle to senior staff from the countries in ESCAP region was trained. We found the course was successful in the following ways:

- (1) maximized the utilization of teaching resources;
- (2) exchanged of practical experience between different countries;
- (3) enhanced the friendship between the peers from different NSOs.

DSEC is looking forward to participate in more regional training activities, and will contribute the needed resources within our capability.

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