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Dear .... ,

**International Forum on  
Monitoring National Development: Issues and Challenges  
Beijing, China, 27 - 29 September 2011**

I am pleased to inform you that the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Bank (WB), are jointly organizing an International Forum on 'Monitoring National Development: Issues and Challenges' from 27 to 29 September 2011 in Beijing, China.

The Forum will discuss priority issues in official statistics in monitoring national development and an action plan for the global statistical community. It will also identify training needs for capacity development. We envisage the following outcomes from the Forum:

- An initial consideration and endorsement of a Plan of Action on Statistics highlighting the important areas of statistics that the development community should focus on in the next 10 years. This Plan will be submitted to the Ministerial Aid-Effectiveness Conference to be held in late November in Busan.
- A framework or template for tracking socioeconomic development with a focus on changing economic structure, employment and education.
- A programme of work for capacity development on economic, social, and environment statistics.

I would like to invite you, or a senior officer of your organization, to attend the Forum. I have attached the provisional programme for the Forum.

Further detailed information concerning the Forum, including expectations for presentations, will be communicated to you in due course. If you have any questions or need any assistance regarding this Forum, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Youlia Antonova (E-mail: [antonova@un.org](mailto:antonova@un.org); Fax: +1 212 963 9851; Telephone: +1 917 367 3376).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA