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Dear

Conference on Climate Change, Development and Official Statistics

We are pleased to inform you that the Korea National Statistical Office (KNSO) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) are jointly organizing a Conference on Climate Change, Development and Official Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region. The conference will be held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 11-12 December 2008.

This conference is an important one. There is an urgent need to discuss how official statistics can best contribute to the measurement, monitoring and analysis of climate change and associated impacts. As a first step in a world-wide consultation process, the international Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics was held in Oslo, Norway, from 14 to 16 April 2008. The Oslo Conference recognized the importance of climate change as a major global, regional and national policy issue and emphasized the value of good quality statistical information to support policy and decision making at different levels. The Conference also agreed that there should be an agenda for action to improve the usefulness and availability of official statistics to climate change policy and monitoring.

The *Conference on Climate Change, Development and Official Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region* is to discuss the relevance of the recommendations of the Oslo Conference and to contribute to the shaping and refining of a roadmap for the development of official climate change statistics at the national, regional and the international level. The roadmap will be submitted to the 40th session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2009 for further deliberation.

Please find attached the provisional work programme of the Conference. The sessions are built around the recommendations of the Oslo Conference and follow the main aspects of climate change where official statistics can best contribute. As we receive confirmations from invited speakers, a more detailed agenda will be sent to you later. The working language of the Conference will be English.

We invite you to nominate a senior expert leading the development of environment statistics in your office to participate in the Conference. We encourage you to invite a senior expert also from your country's environment policy agency as a second country representative.

The deadline for submission of the attached participation form is Tuesday, 28 October 2008.

The designated participants will be asked to contribute a country paper on national practices in climate change related statistics. Brief guidelines for this paper and further information regarding the conference will be provided to designated participants in due course.

Should you have any questions regarding this conference, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Eszter Horvath (email: Horvath@un.org, fax: 1-212- 963 0623, telephone: 1-212-963 4581).

Thank you for your collaboration in this very important event.

Yours sincerely,

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 Office