Statistical Training & Research

A. Statistical Training Institute

1) Overview

The Statistical Institute(STI) provides statistical training to improve and develop the capability of statisticians. It trains professionals not only from KOSTAT, but civil servants from other governmental agencies and local governments, NGOs, reporters, professors, students and foreigners. Its curriculum covers several courses on basic and advanced statistics, sampling technique, computer technology and survey methodology.

In addition, the STI trains foreign statisticians at the request of foreign countries or international agencies. In recent years, the STI has provided statisticians from the Asia and the Pacific region with several statistical training courses in collaboration with the SIAP. An example of these activities would be a Research-based Training Course jointly conducted with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific(UNSIAP).

2) History & Future Plan

The STI opened in September of 1991 to nurture statistical professionals needed to produce quality statistical data. As the survey environment worsened, a necessity arose to implementing programs in order to raise public awareness in statistics. Soon, the STI introduced the 'Statistics for General Public' session to familiarize the general public with statistics. It also addressed the issue of statistical literacy and introduced the 'Statistical Class for Elementary and Middle School Students'. Later, the institute began to conduct programs for reporters,

university students and teachers to draw attention to statistics and create a positive environment for statistics.

In 2007, the STI launched an e-learning project, a new initiative to make the most out of Korea's information technology infrastructure and to increase the effectiveness of training. Training opportunities for employees from local branch offices are expected in increase. In 2008, the STI established the Jeju Training Center after remodeling the Jeju Branch Office and this facility has contributed to producing better quality training and strengthening statistical cooperation ties with Asian countries.

To meet the increasing need of statistical training, construction of a new STI building is now underway. When construction is completed in August 2009, the STI will hold training programs at its brand new building equipped not only with an increased number of lodging facilities but also with international conference facilities, workshop room and optimal IT environment for statistical package sessions.

3) Mission of the STI

The mission of the STI is to nurture statistical experts who are directly involved in producing statistical data and to promote the understanding of statistics among the general public including students, reporters and teachers. To achieve this mission, the STI executes 4 main activities – continuing statistical courses for the staffs of statistical institutions, reinforcing statistical capability of senior level statisticians, developing & executing various programs for statistical users and expanding training infrastructure to accommodate more programs.

B. Statistical Research Institute

1) Overview

The Statistical Research Institute(SRI) was established to contribute to the advancement of National Statistics through statistical research and development. To achieve its mission, the SRI has endeavored to conduct research projects required in developing new statistics and statistical techniques to improve the quality of national statistics. It also aims to conduct in-depth analysis of statistical data.

2) History

The need to conduct statistical research by a specialized research group had long been voiced as statistical research was necessary to meet the needs for new statistical demands. In realizing the importance of statistical research, KOSTAT established the Statistical Research Division in 2004. In 2005, the Statistical Research Division was renamed as the Statistical Development Team. As a consensus was reached among the governmental agencies to establish a separate research organization, the SRI became an independent research institute exclusively specializing in statistics. In 2007, the SRI was designated as one of the Executive Administrative Agencies which granted autonomy in HR, budget issues while the SRI should deliver targets between KOSTAT and SRI.

3) Organization and Function

The SRI has 3 divisions and 1 team under the chief of the SRI, director-general. The Research Planning Division establishes and enforces overall strategy for statistical research, supervises research outcomes and studies statistical methodology. The Economic Statistics Research Division advances economy- and region-related statistics while analyzing

and forecasting economic trends. The Social Statistics Research Division develops and improves society- and population-related statistics while analyzing and forecasting social trends and the trends of population. The Administration/Support Team manages personnel, organizational and budgetary issues and supports administrative activities. There are a total number of 40 staff members at the SRI among which 30 are professional researchers including 13 with a Ph.D. degree and 14 with a master's degree.

4) Research Field

Given recent trends surrounding the survey environment in which the general public is more sensitive than ever on the issue of privacy protection and increase in one-person household and dual-income families, the Research Planning Division placed their emphasis on masking techniques, small area estimation techniques, imputation techniques, data editing and matching techniques. The Economic Statistics Division mainly focuses on developing and improving economy-related statistics. Further more, it designs statistical models for economy analysis and analyzes raw economic data.

5) Key Milestones

In 2007 alone, it conducted 40 research projects to fill the needs of developing new statistics stemming from new environmental changes surrounding statistics. As advanced knowledge and techniques are necessary in order to become a top-notch research institute, the SRI continues to absorb valuable advancements from experts through KOSTAT's long lasting network with prominent statisticians around the world. In 2007, the SRI conducted joint studies to acquire advanced

techniques in SDC(statistical disclosure control) and imputation for non-responses. As contacts and discussions in the international context are important in sharing experiences with other countries, understanding research trends and contents, helping set the direction for future research in the related fields and enhancing competencies of researchers, the SRI held 2 international seminars including SAM(Social Account Matrix) and Comparative Analysis of National Statistical Systems. The SRI conducted 5 urgent research projects to understand the latest trends of social-economic phenomenon such as status and analysis of the suicides of old age. The SRI applied techniques it earned from the joint research projects to produce masked 2%(5%) micro data for 2005 the Population Census.

6) Future Strategy

The SRI aims at becoming a top-notch statistical research institute to lead the development of new statistics of which needs have been raised with the rapidly changing socio-economic environment. To achieve this goal, the SRI will begin by focusing on research subjects which have high practical implications by prioritizing various research needs. The SRI will conduct high-priority research subjects such as census study, indexation development, survey improvement, imputation techniques, masking, small area estimation and graphical data editing.

Secondly, the SRI will prop up statistical infrastructure by identifying research needs and establishing long-term research plans. It will develop the "Statistics Research Management System" to evaluate research projects thus lead to an increase in research efficiency.

Thirdly, the SRI will create a statistician network among experts to bolster statistical competency of KOSTAT research staff. Next, the SRI

will exert its efforts to help researchers enhance their research competencies by providing them with various opportunities of technical training and guest lectures, by letting researchers participate in domestic/foreign seminars and forums and by pursuing joint collaboration with foreign experts. The SRI will also support other statistical agencies through the dissemination of up-to-date techniques.