**Call for Abstracts/Papers**

The Statistics Division of the United Nations’ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has the pleasure to invite abstracts for the 2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week, to be held from 15-19 June in Bangkok, Thailand. The Asia-Pacific Statistics Week provides a forum for experts and managers involved in official statistics and national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific region.

With the theme, **“A decade of action for the 2030 Agenda: Statistics that leave no one and nowhere behind”,** the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week focuses on the progress made towards a Collective Vision and Framework for Action endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in December 2016. The Collective Vision calls for national statistical systems to be empowered to meet urgent and evolving statistical needs through strengthening statistical skills, modernization of statistical business processes, legal and institutional structures and relationship with users.

Submitted abstracts must be aligned with the theme of Asia-Pacific Statistics Week and focus on any of the five Action Areas identified in the Collective Vision as described below.

**Action Area A.** **Engaging users and investing in statistics.** Statistics produced by a national statistical system should be uniquely branded and recognized by the public as official statistics, their value must be commonly understood, and they should be used widely.

**Action Area B. Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics.** For official statistics to be used and enough resources to be secured, their quality must be trusted by the public. A central reference for driving related improvements is the Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, recognized by all countries through General Assembly resolution 68/261.

**Action Area C. Integrated statistics for integrated analysis.** To provide timely products and services that respond to the needs of users, national statistical systems need to accelerate their capacity to integrate data sources and establish integrated production and reporting systems. This is especially central to meet the need for integrated analysis of social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development. These would call for innovative thinking particularly on the use of data sources that are ‘new’ to official statistics.

**Action Area D.** **Modernizing statistical business processes.** Statistical business processes encompass data and information management as well as underlying statistical and technological infrastructure. Their modernization is foundational to facilitate quality management and integration of data sources and for managing data confidentiality issues, including for micro-data.

**Action Area E. Having requisite skills sets.** Any organization is only as good as the people who work for it. National statistical offices are consistently placing issues related to human resources at the top of the list when asked to indicate major challenges. In addition to the lack of staff and the challenges to attracting and retaining talent, the need to diversify the traditional skills base in statistical organizations to include expertise on management, communication, coordination, ICT, and data mining are emphasized in the transformative 2030 Agenda.

**Preparation and submission of abstracts:**

Abstracts should succinctly describe the approach taken and how the proposed approach and findings impact the way their Governments use statistics, or their organizations collect, produce and/or disseminate statistics. Authors are encouraged to use real case studies and actual data to prepare papers that demonstrate innovation and practical attempts to address challenges.

Interested authors are requested to submit no more than 400 words abstract using the attached template to: stat.unescap@un.org,  with copy to sridamaw@un.org by **01 February 2020.** Abstracts previously accepted at past seminars will not be considered.

Examples of some of the papers that meet expectations are as follows:

1. Action Area A. Engaging users and investing in statistics.

<http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/53._investing_statistical_knowledge_-_a_road_to_sustainable_statistical_literacy.pdf>

1. Action Area B. Assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics.

<http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/review_of_the_national_statistical_system_of_the_maldives_replication_study.pdf>

1. Action Area C. Integrated statistics for integrated analysis.

<http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/33._small_area_estimation_for_monitoring_sdgs_at_the_sub-national_level.pdf>

1. Action Area D. Modernizing statistical business processes.

<http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/42._digital_survey_approach_for_tourism_statistics.pdf>

1. Action Area E. Having requisite skills sets

<http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/8._lessons_for_effective_public-private_partnerships_from_the_use_of_mobile_phone_data_in_indonesian_tourism_statistics.pdf>

**Guidelines for abstracts:** Must be written in English and should be no more than 400 words. It should not include any mathematical equations, references to papers or images.

**Submission of abstracts:** In the cover email, authors should indicate which one of the five Action Areas of the Collective Vision their abstract relates to and what is domain (economics, social, environment) in the sustainable development goal is being addressed by the abstract/paper.

**Notification of accepted abstracts.** Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by the Secretariat by **01 March 2020.**

**Detailed guidelines and templates.** Guidelines and templates for abstracts and papers are also provided on the Asia-Pacific Statistics Week website**(**[**https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-statistics-week-2020**](https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-statistics-week-2020)**)**

**Secretariat contact:** Requests for additional information and questions can be addressed to Ms. Wannaporn Sridama at sridamaw@un.org with copy to stat.unescap@un.org, or by phone +66 2288 2593.