



CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

**Workshop on “*Statistical Training in Universities:
National and International Experiences and the Way Forward*”
Ha Noi, 13-14 November 2013**

FOREWORD

Viet Nam is in the process of promoting its industrialization, modernization and international integration. Human resource development is one of the three breakthroughs for the country's development stipulated in the socio-economic development plan (SEDP). In this context, the development of high quality human resources on statistics becomes more urgent than ever. This mission is determined as one of the top priorities in the Viet Nam Statistics Development Strategy (VSIDS) for period 2011-2020 and vision 2030. Improving the quality of staff working on statistics will play a major role in improving the quality of statistical data in all areas, aiming to provide reliable evidence for development, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Viet Nam's development policies.

In order to carry out the above mentioned task, one of the important and immediate solutions is to strengthen and maintain the exchange and cooperation between training facilities, agencies and organizations which utilize statistics human resources. In the meantime, through the international cooperation, Viet Nam will be able to learn from and share experience with other countries, which have advanced training programmes and levels on statistics, with an aim to help Viet Nam to improve statistical training programmes in universities as well as the quality of statistics human resources for the society in general and for statistics sector in particular.

Within the framework of the support project by UNFPA for the GSO, MPI titled: "Support for the implementation of the Viet Nam Statistics Development Strategy for the period 2011-2020 and utilization of population statistical data in planning and development plans", GSO in close cooperation with UNFPA organized a *"Workshop on statistical training in universities: sharing international and national experience and the way forward"* from 13 to 14 November 2013. This was one of many activities organized by the project in order to implement the action plan in improving the quality of statistical human resources, contributing to successful implementation of the VSIDS period 2011-2020.

The objectives of the workshop were to: (1) share international and national information and experience on: training in statistics in universities, design and implementation of statistical training programmes and lessons learnt; (2) discuss and propose recommendations to improve the quality of training and education on statistics in Viet Nam in response to the needs in the middle-income country context.

Participants in the workshop included managers in training and education sector, representatives from universities, which provide statistics subjects, statistical training institutes in Viet Nam and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), government agencies, ministries, UN agencies, international organizations, experts in statistical teaching in Viet Nam's universities and that of America, Australia, France, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

The workshop was very successful and achieved set forth objectives. To recognize the meaningful contributions of international and national experts as well as to meet the desires of most of workshop participants to keep track of sources of workshop materials

and information which were presented at the workshop, the organization board of the workshop has developed this Conference Proceedings.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all participants for sharing and contributing their experiences and valuable lessons learnt for improving the quality of trainings and development of statistical human resources in Viet Nam.

On this occasion, we are pleased to introduce the “*Conference Proceedings on Statistical Training Workshop in Universities: International and National Experience and the Way Forward*” to all the universities, which are teaching statistics subject, and to all agencies utilizing statistical human resources. We hope that this report will be a valuable contribution to the field of statistical training.

General Statistics Office

United Nations Population Fund

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OPENING SPEECHES AND PRESS RELEASE	6
1. Opening speech by Nguyen Van Trung, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.....	6
2. Opening Speech by Mr. Arthur Erken, UNFPA Representative in Viet Nam	8
3. Press Release	11
II. FINDINGS AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VIET NAM.....	13
III. PRESENTATIONS	24
SECTION 2: ROLES OF STATISTICS TRAINING FOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY ON HUMAN RESOURCE FOR STATISTICS.....	25
1. Human resource needs for development of the statistics industry, <i>Mr. Nguyen Tri Duy, Deputy Head, Personnel Department, GSO</i>	27
2. Roles of statistics training in the provision of statistical human resources for the society, <i>Hiroyuki Kitada, Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific SIAP</i>	38
3. Statistical work in the management and operation of businesses: roles and skill requirements. <i>Lê Văn Công, Viet Nam National Coal – Mineral Industries Corporation (VINACOMIN)</i>	51
4. Roles of statistics training in universities, <i>Prof. Phan Công Nghĩa, National Economics University (NEU)</i>	57
SECTION 3. CURRENT SITUATION AND CHALLENGES IN STATISTICS TRAINING IN VIET NAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES	68
1. Statistics Training in Universities with Statistics Major: Reality and Challenges, <i>Assoc. Prof. Bùi Đức Triệu, NEU</i>	
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2. Current situation of Statistics Training in Universities without Statistics major, <i>Trần Thị Bích, National Economics University, Nguyễn Lê Anh, University of Labor & Social Sciences, Nguyễn Thị Tuyết Nhung, Foreign Trade University, Phạm Thị Liên, Viet Nam Trade Union University, Đặng Văn Lương, Viet Nam University of Commerce</i>	90
3. Current situation of employment of bachelors in statistics through the survey "Following the footstep of statistics graduates", <i>Đỗ Văn Huân, Faculty of Statistics, NEU</i>	100
Abstract	100

4. Current Situation & Challenges in Statistics Training in the Philippines, <i>Dr. Jose Ramon Gatmaitan Albert, Secretary General, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines</i>	108
5. Current status of statistical training in France, <i>Prof. Michel Grun-Rehomme, National School of Statistics and Economic Administration, France</i>	123
6. Current status of statistical training in the United States, <i>Prof. Dominique Haughton, Bentley University, USA</i>	143
7. Current status of statistical training in Australia, <i>Assoc. Prof. Alice Richardson, Faculty of Education, Science, Technology & Mathematics, University of Canberra, Australia</i>	165
SECTION 4. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN STATISTICS TRAINING	178
1. Experience in training statistics major at NEU: lessons learnt and challenges, <i>Assoc. Prof. Trần Thị Kim Thu, Faculty of Statistics, NEU</i>	180
2. Experience in statistics training by the College of Economics, Hue University, <i>Trần Phước Hà, MA, Economics University, Hue University</i>	190
3. Experience in statistics training by the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, <i>Dr. Hà Văn Sơn, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City</i>	205
4. SIAP's experience in capacity building for statisticians in the region, <i>Hiroyuki Kitada, Deputy Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific SIAP</i>	223
6. Experience of Statistical Training in PH: Lessons learnt and challenges, <i>Dr. Jose Ramon Gatmaitan Albert, Secretary General, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines</i>	251
7. Experience and contents of training on statistics in Australia, <i>Assoc. Prof. Alice Richardson, Faculty of Education, Science, Technology & Mathematics, University of Canberra, Australia</i>	262
8. Experience and content of statistical training in America, <i>Prof. Dominique Haughton, Bentley University, USA</i>	271
9. Experience and contents of training on statistics in Korea, <i>Jongho Lee, Director, Training Management Division, Statistical Training Institute, Statistics Korea</i>	295
IV. ANNEXES	313
1.Workshop Agenda	314
2. Summary of Biography of Speakers and Presenters	318
3.Video Link on Current Status of Statistics Training in Universities in Viet Nam	322
4.Photos.....	323

I. OPENING SPEECHES AND PRESS RELEASE

1. Opening speech by Nguyen Van Trung, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment

OPENING SPEECH

AT WORKSHOP ON SHARING INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

IN TRAINING STATISTICS IN UNIVERSITIES:

Lessons Learnt and the Way forward

Nguyen Van Trung,

Vice Minister of Planning and Investment

Mr. Arthur Erken, Representative of UNFPA in Viet Nam,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the leaders of Ministry of Planning and Investment, I would like first to warmly welcome you to the “Workshop on sharing international and national experience in training statistics in universities: Lessons Learnt and the way forward”. Wish you good health, and wish a big success to the workshop.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having achieved significant results in the process of developing the country, like many other low-average income countries, Vietnam is facing with huge challenges in ensuring the sustainable development and in reaching the Millennium Goals to which Vietnam has committed. One of the important solutions is to formulate plans and strategies based on evidence. This means the statistics industry has an urgent duty of ensuring objective and reliable statistic information to support the management of the national economy. The statistic industry, therefore, is said to be facing ever significant opportunities and challenges. The role of statistic work and awareness of the importance of statistic data are absorbed by industries at all levels and by the whole society. The supports by the Government, Ministry of Planning and Investment and other ministries, industries and localities towards statistic work are increasing more than ever. Statistic industry is taking better position now.

However, these opportunities at the same time set out challenges to the industry in meeting better the ever increasing needs for information in the country.

In this context, improving capacity and qualification of statistic professionals is identified one of the top priorities to accomplish the Development Strategy for Vietnam's Statistic Industry in the period 2011 – 2020 and vision to 2030. Improving quality of statistics education in universities and connecting statistics training institutions and employers are considered as key solutions.

In this light the MPI has assigned the General Statistics Office to coordinate with the UNFPA office in organizing the “Workshop on sharing international and national experience in training statistics in universities: Lessons Learnt and the way forward”. The workshop is expected to become a forum to share international and national experience in statistics education in universities, and to discuss and make recommendations on improving quality of statistics education in Viet Nam to meet the needs for development of a middle income country like Viet Nam.

On behalf of the leaders at MPI, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the leaders and managers from various ministries and industries, professors and scholars, experts and lecturers in statistics in Vietnam and other countries, who share their precious time to attend this workshop. I wish you good health, and success. I do believe this workshop is the start and the basis for the future cooperation and development.

May I now announce the opening of the workshop and expect for its great success.

Thank you.

2. Opening Speech by Mr. Arthur Erken, UNFPA Representative in Viet Nam

OPENING SPEECH

AT WORKSHOP ON SHARING INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

IN TRAINING STATISTICS IN UNIVERSITIES:

Lessons Learnt and the Way forward

Arthur Erken,

UNFPA Representative in Viet Nam

Mr. **Nguyen Van Trung**, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment;

Mr. **Nguyen Bich Lam**, Director of General Statistics Office;

International experts from the United States, France, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP);

Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Training, National Economics University, Ho Chi Minh Economics University, Hue University and other Universities

Representatives of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, General Statistics Office, Government Agencies, research institutions, national and international NGOs.

Fellow UN colleagues and the media;

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