

Opening Statement by Mr.Omid Ali Parsa Head, Statistical Centre of Iran

**Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers:
Making better use of administrative data**

**26-29 November 2017
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH
THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL**

Dear Mr. Evan Brand, Course Director

Dear Mr. Michael Biddington, Statistician from UNESCAP

Dear Dr. Nour Mohammadi, Head of Statistical Research and Training Centre

Dear Dr. Kiyani, Local Course Resource Person

Distinguished Guests, Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Statistical Centre of Iran it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers: Making better use of administrative data, jointly conducted by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific(SIAP), Statistical Centre of Iran(SCI) and Statistical Research and Training Centre (SRTC).

The course aims to provide a platform for demonstrating good practices and exchanging experiences in dealing with challenges and issues in the improvement, maintenance and use of statistical business registers.

Reliable social and economic statistics are fundamental and it is the responsibility of government to provide them and to maintain public confidence in them. Administrative data are official data provided by different government agencies.

The most important issue that can be expressed here is how to organize the stored data for effective retrieval when requested and collect the data in the most economical way. I believe that the greatest achievement in the use of administrative data is probably register-based population censuses and statistical surveys

experienced by some countries. The long-term strategy of the Statistical Centre of Iran is to focus on administrative data and development of National Statistics Network so that the database of every government agency can be linked to this network based on our mission which is to manage the provision and dissemination of the nation's official statistics and establish register-based system while observing the fundamental principles of official statistics.

The statistical business register (SBR) plays an essential role in the construction and maintenance of an integrated economic information system, serving multiple purposes. One of these objectives is to provide quality data needed for the compilation of national accounts indicators. The growing demand for better and more detailed business statistics has put focus on statistical business registers (SBRs) and their role in the production of business statistics. While traditionally the primary role of SBRs has been to provide sampling frames for business statistics, SBRs of today often include more information so that they can be used in their own right as a source from which to derive harmonized business and industrial statistics that conform to global classification systems. SBRs have also proved to be central to efforts of statistical offices to reduce response burden, better utilize administrative data sources and for combining survey data and administrative data.

For your kind attention, I find it necessary to explain that over recent years, statistical registers development as well as establishing National Statistics Network have been considered as the main priorities of the SCI. In this line, primary studies have been conducted and hardware and software facilities for designing and developing National Statistics Network have been provided and in order to feed this Network, a project titled Iran STARS have been defined. In this Project, the administrative data of government agencies are to be organized in four areas: Population, Activity, Business and Property. By linking the data system of government agencies, the

administrative data turn into official statistics and will be made available to the planners, researchers and other users.

I hope by the efforts of the Statistical Centre of Iran and our colleagues in the Statistical Research and Training Centre, endeavors of the respected instructors and care of the participants, this training course may attain all its goals. I also hope that participants will actively participate in the lectures, discussions and practical sessions and share their experiences.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend my appreciation to SIAP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Statistical Research and Training Centre for their invaluable assistance in the holding of this training course.

It is with pleasure and great expectation that I declare this course open. I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations and hope that the participants and our guests from overseas may enjoy their stay in Tehran, and return home with pleasant memories.

Thank you.

Omid Ali Parsa

Head, Statistical Centre of Iran

Closing Message of Mr. Omid Ali Parsa

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Distinguished Guests, Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you at the closing session of the Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers: Making better use of administrative data. It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate all participants who have successfully completed the course.

I am really glad that the course which lasted four days has proved to be successful in achieving its objectives.

I am certain that the course has inspired rich debate on the challenges of the administrative records by bringing about the opportunity for the participants to discuss in this respect.

I hope that the joint conduct of the course has proven our commitment to enhancing the cooperation with the UNSIAP.

The course director, Mr. Evan Brand, the UNESCAP Statistician, Mr. Michael Biddington and local resource person, Dr. Kiyani did their best to manage active and well-organized classes. I am indeed grateful to them for all their efforts.

I would like to express my cordial gratitude to SIAP authorities for jointly conducting the course with Statistical Centre of Iran in Tehran. My special thanks should go to Mr. Ashish Kumar, SIAP Director who was kind enough to provide us with an opportunity to enjoy the topics on making better use of administrative data in producing statistics.

I should also express my gratitude to all individuals and departments at the Statistical Centre of Iran and the Statistical Research and Training Centre, who endeavored greatly to make the course a success.

Let me take the opportunity to mention that the SCI has put the use of electronic devices in its programmers as an innovative development for data collection in the statistical system since 2006. In this line, we conducted our National Agriculture Census by Tablet Device in 2014 and the National Population and Housing Census electronically across the country in two phases in 2016: 1. Use of the Internet for completing e-census questionnaire with about 48.2 percent participation by the households and 2. Face to face interview by the use of Tablet Device. In future, we hope that we can implement register-based population and housing census in order to complete the last circle of register-based statistical system. With respect to the

experiences obtained in this area, we hope that we can see you here again and share these experiences with you.

Moreover, Statistical Centre of Iran has introduced its new strategy titled modernization of National Statistical System of Iran aimed at transiting from traditional statistical system to register-based system.

Hoping that UNESCAP and SIAP can develop strategies towards capacity building for modernizing National Statistical Systems in the region in collaboration with the NSOs and other international organizations.

Lastly, I hope all participants have benefited a lot from the course and will actually be able to apply what they have learned in their careers later.

I wish the course instructors and overseas participants come back safe and healthy to their homes with a positive and pleasant impression from Iran.

Thank you for your kind attention and congratulations on the successful completion of the course.

Omid Ali Parsa

Head, Statistical Centre of Iran