The Republic of Korea fully recognizes the importance of statistical capacity building to help countries produce high quality statistics to effectively support evidence-based policy making for national development.

In this regard, I cannot emphasize too much the importance of the sustainability and continued growth of the SIAP for the region.

Korea is fully committed to increase our support for SIAP. Currently, we make an annual cash contribution (of $50,000), and also provide in-kind contributions by hosting 2 to 3 regional statistical training courses annually in cooperation with the SIAP.

Korea also plays an advisory function for SIAP by joining the advisory body on the coordination of statistical training in the region.

To continue to take an active part in SIAP activities, Korea hopes to serve on the SIAP Governing Council for another term.

Let me take this opportunity to ask for the support of ESCAP Members and Associate Members for Korea's candidacy for the new SIAP Governing Council, which is going to be elected next Monday.

Thank you very much.