

Agenda Item 13: Statistical Training Progress:

11.30 – 12.30 pm Thursday 28 May 2015

i. USP to advise progress on degree programme in official statistics

Purpose of Paper: The purpose of the paper is to present various aspects of the USP official statistics program and update the progress.

Background/ Introduction:

Official Statistics is an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy, business and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. In response to great regional need for economic statisticians and statistical experts at the National Statistical Offices, the School of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of the South Pacific started offering various Official Statistics programs in 2007. Since then hundreds of students and officials are graduated. Majority of them are serving in the region. The study of Official Statistics covers the principles, systems and methods involved in the compilation and analysis of Official Statistics. It also includes knowledge of the most important subject matter (e.g., macroeconomics, demography) required for Official Statistics.

Our Official Statistics programs have recently been redesigned with assistance of international experts with years of experience in working with organisations like Australian Bureau of Statistics and United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The revised course is in line with the growing demand for official statistics, statistical users, statisticians and data analysis experts in the region. It is an ideal program of study for those thinking of a career in official statistics and those working in National Statistical Offices. A wide range of courses are being offered in different teaching modes such as face-to-face, distance and flexible learning, and on-line to make them more accessible to working officials and students.

Key Issues:

1. Induction of Postgraduate Courses
2. Low students enrolments in existing courses
3. How to create awareness about OS program

Recommendations: More collaboration among organisations dealing with Official Statistics Programs in the region



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Meeting

10th Pacific Statistics Steering Committee

Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

25th – 29th May 2015