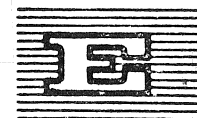


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TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION: TRAINING OF STATISTICAL PERSONNEL

Review of training of statistical personnel

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Add the following text after paragraph 104

D. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

104a. The Government of the United Kingdom regards training as a most important part of its technical co-operation programme and has for many years assisted the training of overseas statisticians at its academic institutions, by providing fellowships and training awards. At present, such assistance is provided mainly for post-graduate or specialized training.

104b. In addition to officially sponsored and supported students, many privately funded students receive training in the United Kingdom. Over the years, assistance has been provided at many levels of academic or applied statistics, from "A" levels and Institute of Statisticians (IOS) Part I examinations to Ph.D. research.

104c. In more recent years, the Government, through its Overseas Development Administration (ODA), has supported a range of special courses for statisticians from developing countries. The courses have covered a variety of topics in applied statistics and have been run by various educational institutions in the United Kingdom.

104d. Statisticians from ODA have given courses at the Institute of Social Studies, at The Hague. Similar support has been given to the Munich Centre for Advanced

* E/CN.3/535.

Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries. Close co-operation with other European training centres continues. In addition, ODA has provided lecturers for certain courses at the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and, in the normal course of its work, endeavours to encourage and support the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and other regional training schemes.

104e. The Administration facilitates a link between the departments of statistics at the Universities of Reading, England, and of Colombo, Sri Lanka in order to assist the University of Colombo to develop a statistical unit within its Department of Mathematics and to provide teaching (especially post-graduate), research, advisory and data-processing services for the University, national research institutes, the Government and industrial organizations. The link came into operation in 1977 and will continue for five years. Each year, ODA funds enable one member of the Colombo statistics unit to study for a year at the University of Reading, and a University of Reading academic to visit Colombo for from two to three months. The link was recently reviewed and was found very effective in building up a statistical unit.

104f. Lecturers are provided at other universities in support of formal education in statistics. Training of local personnel is also an important part of each technical co-operation officer's task, and the informal training provided by visiting experts in the course of their duties is often a significant form of practical training.

104g. In the academic year 1979/80, the United Kingdom provided 88 technical co-operation study fellowships in statistics and computer science. Of those, 35 were in statistics (including 13 in the special course in development statistics given at the Institute for Development Studies of the University of Sussex, for officials from developing countries, and seven in the course in social research for development at the Centre for Urban Studies at University College, London) and 53 were in computer science. The provision of this training cost approximately £ 390,000.

104h. In addition to fellowships for students who studied statistics or computer science as their primary subject, fellowships were provided for courses like the B.Sc. (Econ.) at the London School of Economics, which have a high statistical content. Those fellowships are not reported here.

104i. A major problem confronting the administrators of the special courses is the heterogeneity of the participants' levels of facility in English and in statistical methods. Since the courses are conducted in English, a minimum level of fluency is required; arrangements can, if necessary, be made for intensive training in English prior to the professional course. On most such courses, moreover, arrangements are made for specific sections of the training to assist those participants less firmly grounded in statistical methodology.

104j. Courses are evaluated informally, usually through end-of-course seminars. That process has proved valuable in highlighting certain administrative and course-content short-comings, which have been rectified in subsequent courses. Statistical training will also be included in the more extensive evaluation of all United Kingdom study fellowships to be undertaken in 1980/81.

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104k. The training programme in statistics is financed entirely by ODA, under its technical co-operation and other schemes, and will continue to follow the pattern of past years. There will, however, be an increasing emphasis on the provision of courses designed to meet the practical needs of overseas statisticians.

For D. United States of America read E. United States of America
