Updates from the third meeting of the Regional Steering Group for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific

The third meeting of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific took place from 18-20 October in Bangkok, Thailand. Member states and partner organizations met to provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the Regional Action Framework and the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade (2015-2024).

Discussions covered a wide range of CRVS issues. This included national CRVS coordination mechanisms, Goal 1 (registration completeness), Goal 2 (legal documentation) and Goal 3 (vital statistics) of the Regional Action Framework, as well as modalities for regional and sub-regional collaboration. In addition to the plenary sessions, the meeting also encompassed a series of parallel sessions meant to address more specific topics, such as accessing hard-to-reach and marginalized communities, CRVS digitization, civil registration in emergencies and disasters, and improving cause of death information. Overarching themes throughout the meeting stressed linking CRVS with service delivery, improving inter-agency collaboration, and establishing CRVS as a high-level priority.

This year’s meeting also included a CRVS marketplace. The marketplace allowed countries, ESCAP, and partners to present key challenges, successes and innovations in the region, as well as tools and policies. In addition, the World Bank and Plan International hosted side-events. The World Bank took the opportunity to present its new CRVS eLearning course, while Plan International showcased a prototype of its OpenCRVS tool. The Data4Health initiative also hosted an evening reception for participants.

The RSG meeting saw delegates give a range of insightful and interesting presentations, all of which are available on the RSG event page. ESCAP and partners have also prepared several new resources. This includes a set of country profiles (including Cambodia and Cook Islands) designed to give a brief overview of the current status of CRVS and key partners supporting progress in countries. In addition, ESCAP has created draft information notes on national coordination mechanisms, national CRVS strategies, death registration including cause of death, and the link between civil registration and electoral registration. These will be published over the coming months. Finally, for additional information and many more pictures of the event please check the ESCAP Twitter page and #getinthepicture, as well as ESCAP’s page on Facebook.

The CRVS team at ESCAP sends a big THANK YOU to all countries and partners who attended this year’s RSG meeting and we hope to
**Events & Media**

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<th>Event</th>
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| **Workshop on the operation of CRVS and Identity Management systems in East Asia** | 13-17 November 2017  
Hanoi, Viet Nam |
| **Fourth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration** | 4-8 December 2017  
Nouakchott, Mauritania |
| **Capacity building workshop for selected National CRVS Focal Points** | 12-14 December 2017  
Bangkok, Thailand |

**A Call For Contributions**

Do you have anything you want to share? We welcome contributions to the newsletter and website. If you have a story on CRVS insights, events, information or tools, please send them through to sejersent@un.org

For more information, contact the Statistics Division of United Nations ESCAP at stat.unescap@un.org or +66 2288 2593, or visit www.getinthepicture.org

You are receiving this email since you have shown interest in CRVS activities in the past.