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**China – Canada Information Management  
Programme (SIMP)**

Principles for the  
Technical Cooperation Program between  
Statistics Canada and the  
State Statistical Bureau of China

As stated in the program document, Statistics Canada and the State Statistical Bureau of China (SSB) concluded that "through the implementation of the program, SSB will see an enhancement of its capacity to function as the central statistical agency of China, serving the needs of a variety of users through the provision of timely and reliable data required for the efficient functioning of a market economy. More specifically, SSB will, through the adoption and introduction of international statistical methods and standards, develop a comprehensive and readily accessible information base, and the capability of promptly responding to changing data needs in a rapidly expanding economy. These outcomes will be achieved through the adoption and use of management and planning techniques that ensure the efficiency of resource utilization within SSB, and enable SSB to serve effectively as the principal coordinating agency for the Chinese statistical system as a whole."

" Key outputs will be:

- the availability of a wide range of policy-relevant statistics, reflecting the development of a market economy, and based on international standards and methods;
- a strengthened institutional capacity, incorporating a well-trained managerial, professional and technical staff within SSB, capable of taking advantage of information technology;
- an enhanced status that permits SSB to effectively coordinate statistical work in China within a legal framework that recognizes the role of other agencies;
- an enhanced capacity to train staff in the Chinese statistical system to meet national needs in the future. "

In order to ensure that the goals and contemplated outputs of the program will be achieved, Statistics Canada and the SSB jointly developed the following principles as guidelines throughout the pursuance of the program:

1. Activities should contribute to improvements in the Chinese statistical system in terms of:
  - relevance (availability of data required under market-economy conditions);
  - accuracy of data published;
  - timeliness of data releases;
  - accessibility of data; and
  - efficiency of the statistical system.
2. Activities to be undertaken within the program should directly support SSB's own broad priorities.
3. Projects in the program should be goal-oriented, each with clearly defined outputs.
4. Before the commencement of a project, the SSB should help Statistics Canada by providing a brief historical background and a clear picture of the existing situation, recent developments, problems encountered and future plans with regard to the area in which the two bureaux plan to work together. For statistical projects, this information should include a full description of issues, such as data collected and published, methodology used, collection procedure, processing, periodicity, timeliness, geographical breakdown, main users and their needs.
5. In order to achieve maximum international coordination, full information on current or contemplated activities of other donors should be made available by the SSB prior to the commencement of work in any particular area. Such information should be kept up to date.
6. The guiding principles of the program, and the aims of each project, should be fully discussed with participating divisions on both the Canadian and Chinese sides.
7. Results of work to be undertaken within the program should be sustainable. Before work in any particular area commences, the SSB should assess and confirm that the results achieved will be maintained or utilized after the completion of work, and that the budgetary resources to this end are assured. These conclusions should be incorporated in a document to be signed by an Assistant Chief Statistician of Statistics Canada and a Deputy Director-General of the SSB. The signing of such documents is required for any work element (project, activity or sub-activity) which is expected to result in a sustainable outcome. Several work elements can be covered by a single document if practical.

8. It is desirable that consultations be undertaken with key Chinese users of any statistics to be developed or improved as part of the program, because users' views may become important ingredients for making the results of the program practical and user-oriented.
9. Most cooperative activities should be performed in such a way that Statistics Canada's experts work directly with SSB's experts in the achievement of the project's goals.
10. Participating technical personnel should be identified, and their suitability and availability ensured well in advance.
11. Training to be offered by Statistics Canada should be project-oriented. Staff members who receive training within a project should either already have, or have been designated to assume, definite responsibilities in the area that the joint activity is expected to target.
12. Acknowledging that an effective training program is a high priority for any progressive organization, strengthening SSB's training capacity is recognized as a substantive project by itself.
13. In relation to any project, appropriate training should also be given to the person(s) who would continue the work in case the original trainee is no longer available for the performance of the task.
14. It should be ensured that both women and men have equal opportunities to participate in the program.
15. According to CIDA's policies, equipment can be provided, within the framework of the program, only in direct support of substantive projects. It is recognized that funds available even under these circumstances are limited.
16. Provision in the work program should be made for limited consultancies for two years after the completion of a project in order to assist SSB in the solution of any unforeseen problems, and thus ensure the sustainability of the project in question.

17. In order to monitor progress, a written report should be submitted after the completion of each distinct work element. The report should include such information as the purpose of the work undertaken, topics addressed, results achieved and future actions contemplated.
18. After the completion of each project, a written report should be prepared jointly by Statistics Canada and the SSB. Such reports should include a full documentation of the work performed, covering the justification for the project, the processes followed, the problems encountered, the results achieved, the comments of users as applicable, the cooperative actions with other donors, the costs incurred, and any other relevant aspects which are important to note.
19. It is necessary that an accurate record of both Canadian and Chinese contributions to the program be kept up to date in conformity with CIDA's requirements.
20. Each project should be jointly evaluated by Statistics Canada and the SSB.

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Statistics Canada

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Director-General  
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