

**Seminar on “Population Planning in a Low Fertility, High Migration and Rapidly Ageing Demographic Regime : Approaches and the Role of Statistics”
by the Director of United Nations Statistics Division held on 27 March 2009**

The Hong Kong Statistical Society (HKSS), the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong and the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) jointly organized a seminar on “Population Planning in a Low Fertility, High Migration and Rapidly Ageing Demographic Regime : Approaches and the Role of Statistics” on 27 March 2009 (Friday) at Rayson Huang Theatre of the University of Hong Kong. With the Director of United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Professor Paul Cheung, as the speaker, the Seminar attracted about 150 participants from various sectors of the community, in particular the academia and statistical practitioners.

“The Hong Kong Statistical Society has always been in phase with the international community by maintaining close contacts with professional statistical practitioners and scholars around the world, exchanging ideas and sharing work achievements amongst stakeholders. It is the privilege for the Hong Kong Statistical Society to co-organize the Seminar and have the Director of the UNSD, Professor Paul Cheung, share with us his valuable experience and incisive insights,” said Mr Leslie Tang Wai-kong, President of the Hong Kong Statistical Society.

Introducing Professor Paul Cheung at the Seminar, Mr Fung Hing-wang, Commissioner for Census and Statistics said, “The UNSD, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. Apart from compiling and disseminating global statistical information, developing standards/norms for statistical activities and supporting countries’ efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems, the UNSD facilitates the coordination of international statistical activities and supports the functioning of the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex entity of the global statistical system”.

Prior to his appointment as the Director of UNSD, Professor Paul Cheung was the former Head of Population Planning Unit in Singapore (1986-1992). He then served as Chief Statistician of the Government of Singapore from 1991 to 2004. In this role, he was the National Statistical Coordinator as well as the Chief Executive of the Singapore Department of Statistics. Professor Cheung was the President of the International Association of Official Statistics from 2001 to 2003. He was also the past Chairman of the Governing Board, Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific, the Chair of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia

and the Pacific, as well as Chairman of the Regional Advisory Board of the Asian Development Bank's International Comparison Program for Asia and the Pacific.

“Being renowned in Asia and the Pacific region for his pioneering research in the fields of manpower, population, social planning and official statistics, Professor Paul Cheung is the most suitable person to address the audience on the topic – the important role of statistics and the approaches which may be adopted in population planning”, said Mr Fung Hing-wang.

At the Seminar, Professor Paul Cheung explored the intricacies of population planning in Singapore and their relevance to other Asian countries and regions. Apart from discussing the drivers of Singapore's population trends and their impact on the Singapore society, Professor Cheung also talked about population policy options in a multi-ethnic city state and the role of statistics in supporting population planning.

Professor Ng Kai-wang, Head of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong, remarked that, “I concur with Professor Paul Cheung that statistics practitioners should make concerted efforts to pursue the common goal of keeping in pace with the ever-changing environment and advancing the commitment to producing high-quality official statistics which are fundamental to informed decision-making for supporting the socio-economic developments of individual economies and the world as a whole. Official statistics should not be seen merely as huge volumes of figures but as useful tools that can facilitate planning and policy formulation”.

For details about the Seminar, please visit the official website of the Hong Kong Statistical Society at <http://www.hkss.org.hk>.