1. INTRODUCTION
Valued Accreditation in the 21st Century

- Trustworthiness
  - Integrity
  - Reliability
  - Credibility
- Professionalism
- High Standards
- Certification

ISO
International Organization for Standardization

Quality Assurance
Active Professionals in the 21st Century and their certification/accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification/accreditation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPA (Certified Public Accountant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIA (Certified Internal Auditor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.D. (Medical Doctor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMP (Project Management Professional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Statisticians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Stat (Chartered Statistician)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.Stat. (Professional Statistician)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.Stat. (Associate Statistician)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Society of Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Société statistique du Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Statistical Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Professional Statistician™</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.1. Background

- Based on the Bahrain’s Central Informatics Organization proposal to initiate a program on the “Accreditation of Statistics Professionals” specific to member countries of OIC in the First Session of the OIC Stat Com held in April 2011
1.1. Background

Knowing that almost all national statistics organisations are operating under tight resources and do not have the luxury to let go of their staff for an extended period of time to pursue training, this program aims to encourage continuous statistical capacity building by providing the venue to upgrade statistical knowledge through distance learning.
1.1. Background

- Targets active **Official Statistics Professionals of OIC** member countries to help them chart their professional development and establishing clear and effective career paths by endorsing the expertise and knowledge under an official context.

- When implemented appropriately, accreditation can strengthen the fundamental leadership and steering role of statistical authorities.

- An eventual tool for international categorization and recognition of statistical organizations in OIC.
1.2. OIC-Stat Com WG3 and its Activities

1. OIC Stat Com Working Group 3

* Bahrain (Lead Country) * Egypt * IDB * Kazakhstan
* Palestine * Qatar * SESRIC * United Arab Emirates

2. Main tasks

- to develop conceptual and methodological background of the accreditation program,
- to outline the processes involved in the establishment and operations of the program, and
- to identify requirements for application towards certification and accreditation.
1.2. OIC-StatCom WG3 and its Activities

3. Deliverables of WG3

FINAL REPORT OF OIC-STAT COM WORKING GROUP NO. 3
CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS PROFESSIONALS

April 2012

Compiled by:
Central Informatics Organization (Bahrain)
in cooperation with SEERIC, Egypt, IDB, Kazakhstan, Palestine,
Qatar and United Arab Emirates
1.2. OIC-Stat Com WG3 and its Activities

4. Way forward activities of WG3

- Mostly communicated via email
- Completed using consultative questionnaire format
  - Questionnaire was distributed, tallied and results were reported for feedback among WG3 members (using majority rule).
  - Drafted two reports/deliverables using the WG3-approved 4 levels of OStat certification and accreditation processes/requirements.
1.3. Other Practices on Accreditation of Statistical Professionals

- usually offered by country’s statistical society/association
- based on Code of Conduct and Ethics or Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice
- voluntary
- portfolio-based
- application form along with portfolio documentation of experience, education, professional competence, communication skills and professional development
- application fees
- renewable after validity period (usually every five years)
2. ACCREDITATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICAL PROFESSIONALS

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS PROFESSIONALS

OStat
2.1 Aim of the Accreditation System

to certify the expertise and knowledge under an official context for the professional conduct of statistical work of active Official Statistics Professionals in OIC member countries bound by code of ethics, principles and good practices of Official Statistics.
### OStat - 2. Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OStat</th>
<th>application form</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>application fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(proposed) subject to OIC Stat Com decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>accreditation validity and renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>examination and portfolio-based procedures subject to OIC Stat Com decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **International (OIC-wide) accreditation**
- Based on Code of Conduct and Ethics or Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- Encouraged
- Examination and portfolio-based
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Level 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment for Basic Level

ASSESSMENT FOR BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

• Application form & fee
• At least Bachelor’s diploma
• Reference letter confirming minimum of 2 years related experience in Official Statistics

Take Required Exam to Pass

PASS

FAIL

Waiting time

Reapply

BASIC LEVEL CURRICULUM

BASIC LEVEL CERTIFICATE & ACCREDITATION
Assessment for Intermediate Level

ASSESSMENT FOR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

- Application form & fee
- Basic level certificate
- Reference letter confirming minimum of 3 years related experience in Official Statistics
- Certificates of attendance in training, workshops, conferences, forums or lectures related to Official Statistics
- Copy of unpublished work on Official Statistics

Take Required Exam to Pass

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CERTIFICATE & ACCREDITATION

PASS

Reapply

Waiting time

FAIL

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CURRICULUM
Assessment for Advance Level 1

ASSESSMENT FOR ADVANCE LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

- Application form & fee
- Intermediate level certificate
- Reference letter confirming minimum of 5 years related experience in Official Statistics
- Certificates of attendance of training, workshops, conferences, forums or lectures related to Official Statistics
- Copy of relevant published work related to Official Statistics

Take Required Exam/Project to Pass

PASS

Reapply

WAITING TIME

FAIL

ADVANCE LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE & ACCREDITATION

ADVANCE LEVEL 1 CURRICULUM
Assessment for Advance Level 2

ASSESSMENT FOR ADVANCE LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

- Application form & fee
- Advance Level 1 certificate
- At least a Master's diploma
- Reference letter confirming minimum of 6 years related experience in Official Statistics
- Certificates of attendance and giving training, workshops, conferences, forums or lectures related to Official Statistics
- Copy of relevant published work related to Official Statistics

Take Required Exam/Project to Pass

PASS

ADVANCE LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE & ACCREDITATION

Reapply

Waiting time

FAIL
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.1. Accreditation Processes

The processes under OStat include:

(a) application and registration,
(b) official curriculum and examination preparation,
(c) examination testing,
(d) post examination and results
2.2.1a Application and Registration Processes

- **Program General Secretariat**
  - sends inquiry
  - sends application form / fees
  - release information / publicity
  - receives application & queries
  - processes application form and fee
  - sends results of application

- **Applicant / Human Resources Department**
  - sends inquiry
  - sends application form / fees
  - receives application & queries
  - processes application form and fee
  - sends results of application
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.1b. Official Curriculum & Examination Preparation Processes*

- **Nomination and Election Processes**
  - **OIC Stat Com**
    - Nominates and elects members and chair for 2-year term of nominees from academe and national statistics agencies.

- **Examination Committee** (Chair + Members)
  - Prepares and sends official curriculum, topics, references and examination(s) with answer key(s) for each level to Program General Secretariat.

- **Program General Secretariat**
  - Releases information
  - Receives application & queries
  - Processes application
  - Sends result of application
### 2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

#### 2.2.1c. Examination Testing Processes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program General Secretariat</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Testing Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notification of qualified Applicants for examinations with</td>
<td>• Dates, time and venue of testing of official examination(s) are decided</td>
<td>• Completed official examinations are scored - manually or automated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Testing requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Venue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Official examinations and list of Applicant examinees are sent to Testing Centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Completed official examinations are returned from Testing Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Hosts official examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Documents conducted examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Compiles completed official examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Attends official examinations at designated time/place with valid identification/documentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

#### 2.2.1d. Post-Examination Results Processes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OIC Stat Com</strong></th>
<th><strong>Program General Secretariat</strong></th>
<th><strong>Applicant</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>issues certificates of successful applications</td>
<td>sends all application results</td>
<td>receive application results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acknowledges reexamination of failed applications</td>
<td>application results &amp; certificates to successful Applicants</td>
<td>receive certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>notice &amp; requirements to failed Applicants</td>
<td>receive re-examination notice &amp; requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>response to appeal of failed Applicants</td>
<td>sends reapplication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sends appeal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.2. Accreditation Committees

Accreditation processes require the establishment and funding of two committees:

1. Examination Committee (technical)

2. Program General Secretariat (administrative)
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.2. Accreditation Committees

Examination Committee

- Created to develop official curricula and to prepare the official examinations for each level of certification and accreditation.

- Credibility and competency of the membership/leadership is important.

- OIC-Stat Com nominates, appoints, substitutes and mandates from the academe or OIC Member Country Statistical Organizations.

- Membership of Examination Committee is for two years.

- Unclear source of funding of Examination Committee.
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.2. Accreditation Committees

Program General Secretariat

- Serves as an administrative body and coordinator of the program.

- Provides the link and the central point of communication of the program with OIC-Stat Com, applicants and accredited OStat certified Official Statistics Professionals.

- There is no decision yet as to how the formation and funding of the Program General Secretariat will be established.
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.3. Cost Related to the Implementation of Accreditation Programme

- No discussions and decisions as to how the OStat program will be funded or financed for operations and maintenance.

- Sponsorship and fund generation may be sought by OIC-Stat.

- Future sources of funds may include official statistics training materials, short courses and workshops opportunities.

- Suggested non-refundable fee between USD 50-100 can be charged for application (inclusive of testing and a one-time reapplication)
2.2 Tasks and Requirements of the Programme

2.2.3. Cost Related to the Implementation of Accreditation Programme

1. Operations costs of the two accreditation committees (Program General Secretariat and Examination Committee).
2. Other costs related to the examination venue/testing centers,
3. Honorarium or remuneration of committee members or consultants,
4. Official examination printing
5. Printing and distribution of certificates,
6. Marketing and publicity related costs
7. Development of study materials
8. Automated test scoring machines,
9. Probable costs of outsourcing the examination preparation or test scoring
10. Official website operations, security and maintenance
3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS PROFESSIONALS

OStat
3. Conclusions and Recommendations

- WG3 finalized the processes and requirements of OStat accreditation.

- WG3 recommends immediate implementation of three levels (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced) separately with a gap of one year starting with Basic level in the first year.
3. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Critical OIC Stat Com decision and approval on establishment with budget and funding of the two committees – Program General Secretariat (administrative) and Examination Committee (technical) are required for OStat initial three years operation.

- Critical OIC Stat Com decision and approval on the OStat certification and accreditation validity and renewal procedures.

- Critical OIC Stat Com decision and approval on procedures to handle disciplinary matters on accredited individuals as well as termination of accreditation either voluntarily or as a result of disciplinary action.
THE END