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(Abstract)

## **Strategies for the 2010 Population Census of Japan**

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The Population Census of Japan has been conducted every five years since 1920 by the traditional approach, in order to precisely grasp the actual conditions of population and households, following the “Essential Features” described in the “Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses” by the United Nations, namely, (a) individual enumeration, (b) universality within a defined territory, (c) simultaneity and (d) defined periodicity.

The 2005 Population Census was conducted successfully with the cooperation of the public, but a number of problems arose in the field enumeration, such as difficulty in contacting households due to greater awareness of privacy and the proliferation of apartment buildings with locked entrance doors.

For this reason, the Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) is drawing up a plan for the 2010 Census to obtain greater understanding and cooperation from the public by reviewing the enumeration procedure of previous censuses.

The SBJ plans to improve some of the enumeration methods, e.g., to change the major collection method of questionnaires from the method using the enumerator’s visit to one involving mailing back. The SBJ will make utmost efforts to draw up an optimal plan for the 2010 Census to cope with the issues raised at the last Census.