

The 12th East Asian Statistical Conference  
13 - 14 November 2008, Tokyo, Japan

**A View  
on the Statistical Reform of  
Japan**  
**- Where we are, where to go -**

**Shigeru Kawasaki**  
**Statistics Bureau, Japan**

# 1 Timeline of the Reform Process

2004 Start - Committee was established

2006 Decision to Revise the Statistics Act

2007 Legislation - New Statistics Act (May)

Statistics Commission (October)

2008 Draft "Basic Plan" (October)

2009 Full Implementation (April)

## 2 Statistical Reform - Before and After (1)

### (1) Clearer Principles

#### Before:

Too abstract, goals not clear enough.

#### After:

In line with UN Fundamental Principles

Official statistics:

= Foundation of rational decision-making for the public

---→ Stronger Emphasis on Users' Perspective

### (2) Wider Scope

#### Before:

Only censuses and surveys are covered.

Non-survey statistics are out of scope of the act.

#### After:

All statistics regardless of sources are covered.

National accounts statistics are included in the scope.

## **2 Statistical Reform - Before and After (2)**

### **(3) More Effective Governance and Coordination**

#### Before:

Advisory body with limited authority - Statistics Council

Passive coordination - scrutiny of the survey plans

#### After:

Advisory body with broader authority - Statistics Commission

Planning and active coordination – “Basic Plan”, Follow-up

### **(4) Administrative Data as Data Sources**

#### Before:

No provision for access to administrative data

#### After:

Authority to “request” access to administrative data

## 2 Statistical Reform - Before and After (3)

### (5) Integration through Common Frame

#### Before:

No provision on the common frame

#### After:

Provisions for the "Establishment Database"  
i.e. Business Survey Frame

### (6) Basis for Microdata

#### Before:

Strong restrictions to use of microdata  
Mandatory publishing of "designated" statistics,  
but no provision for wide dissemination

#### After:

Clear legal basis for use of anonymized microdata

## 3 Challenges Ahead

### Putting Principles into Practice .....

- Coping with Resource Constraints and Putting Priorities
- Establishing Access to Administrative Data
- Improving Communication with Users
- Improving Collaboration among
  - Survey Statisticians and National Accountants
  - Statistical and Non-Statistical Departments
  - Government Statisticians and Academia
- Encouraging Constant Evolution of Statistics and Organizations