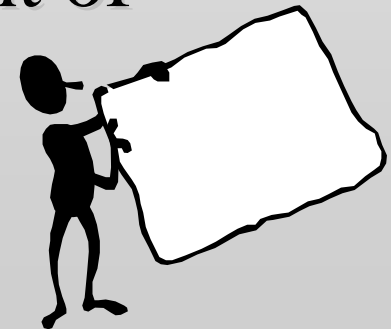


Implementation of Reform of the Statistical System in Japan

Kitada Hiroyuki
Director for Statistical Planning
Office of Director-General for Policy Planning
on Statistical Standards
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
(MIC)
Government of Japan

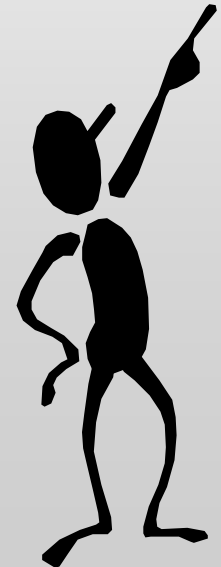
Contents of Presentation

- Outline of the current statistical system in Japan
- Necessity of reform of the statistical system
- Process of reform of the statistical system
- Outline of the new Statistics Act
- Basic Plan concerning the development of official statistics
- Conclusion



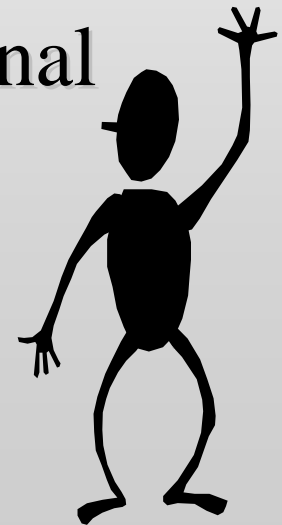
Outline of the Current Statistical System in Japan

- The national government has adopted a decentralized statistical system.
- The current legal framework for official statistics was established mainly by the Statistics Law (1947) and the Statistical Reports Coordination Law (1952).



The Main Functions for Overall Coordination Based on these Laws

- Planning basic policies on statistical systems
- Examining and coordinating statistical surveys of the national government
- Establishing statistical standards
- Coordinating matters related to international statistical affairs



Assessment of the Current Statistical System in Japan

- The current statistical system was established 60 years ago.
- Some deficiencies emerged in meeting new challenges, such as responding to the rapidly changing industrial structure and meeting new diverse needs of users.



Necessity of Reform of the Statistical System

- Most of official statistics are produced primarily for the administrative purposes
- Use of administrative records is limited.
- Utilization of statistics does not sufficiently reflect new needs and advances in ICT.
- Under the decentralized statistical system, the coordinating agency does not play an active role.



Schedule for Enforcement of the New Statistics Act

2007 May 23

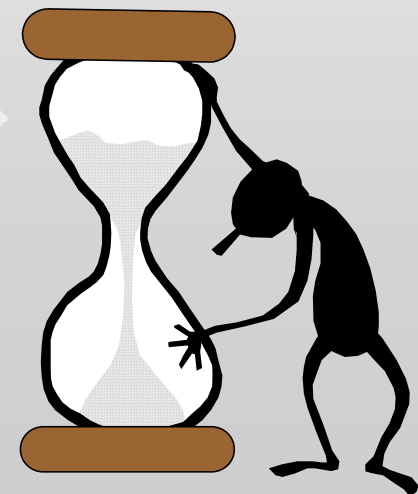
Promulgation of the new Statistical Act

2008 Oct. 1

Partial Enforcement of the new Statistical Act
(About establishment of a Basic Plan and the
Statistics Commission)

2008 Jan. 21

Start of deliberations on a Basic Plan
(in the Statistics Commission)



Schedule for Enforcement of the New Statistics Act (cont.)

2008 Oct. 24

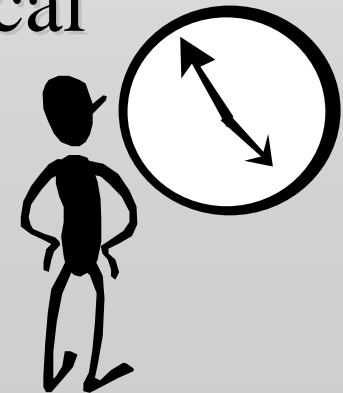
Release of the draft Basic Plan

By 2008 March

Cabinet decision of the Basic Plan

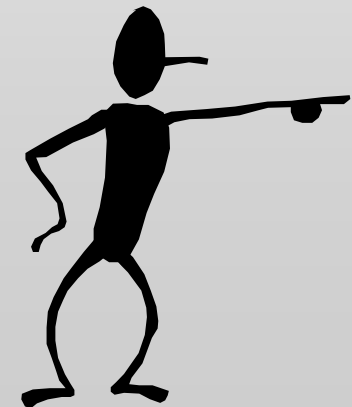
2008 Apr.1

Wholly Enforcement of the new Statistical Act



Basic Viewpoints in Establishing a New Legal System

- To build appropriate rules and frameworks for official statistics from the viewpoints of both producers and users
- To establish a mechanism to develop official statistics efficiently based on overall plans regardless of the sources or methods of producing statistics
- To strengthen the function of “headquarters” for the development of official statistics



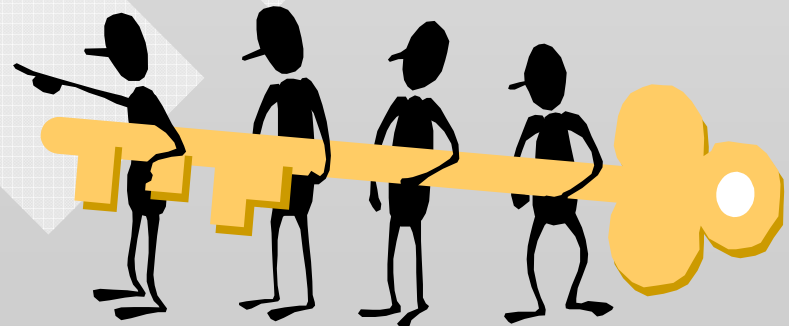
Main Points of the New Statistics Act

- Establishment of a Basic Plan as a cabinet decision
- Establishment of rules for utilizing administrative records
- Development of “Establishment Frame Database”



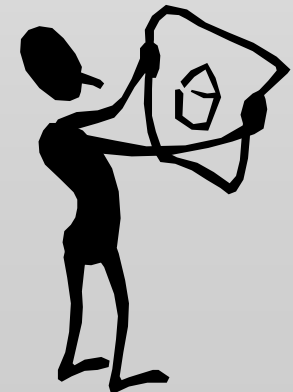
Main Points of the New Statistics Act (cont.)

- Establishment of rules to make the obligation to ensure confidentiality clearer in cases where private enterprises are contracted to carry out statistical surveys
- Promotion of the secondary use of statistical data (such as tailor-made compilation and utilization of anonymous micro data) with security of confidentiality
- Establishment of the Statistics Commission in the Cabinet Office



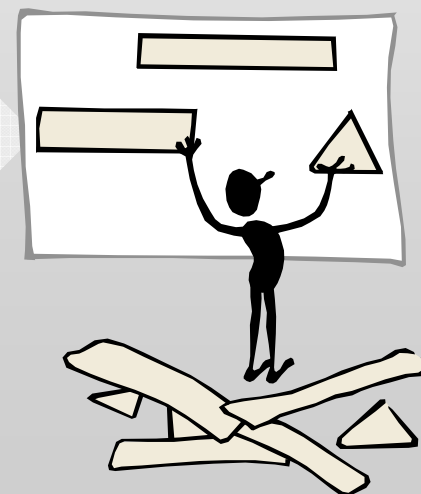
Draft Basic Plan concerning the Development of Official Statistics

- Interim report about basic ideas, directions of policy and necessary measures concerning to the development of official statistics during coming five years
- Based on the deliberations of the Statistics Commission
- Through public comment and further deliberations, the basic plan is to be adopted as a cabinet decision



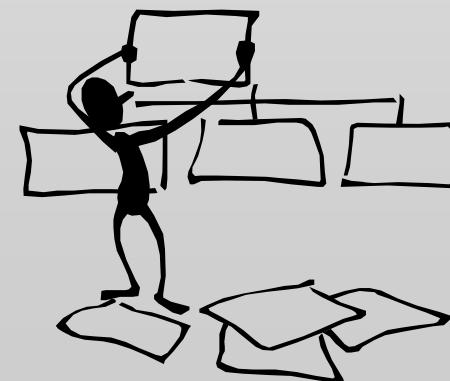
Main Points of Draft Basic Plan (1)

- Basic policies for measures concerning the development of official statistics
 - Role of official statistics
 - Present status and challenges
 - Basic viewpoints on the development of measures



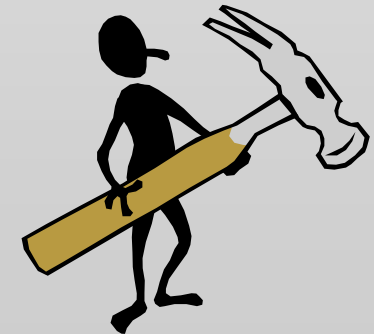
Main Points of Draft Basic Plan (2)

- Measures that the government shall implement comprehensively and systematically in order to develop official statistics
 - Development of “Fundamental Statistics” which constitute the base of a system of statistics
 - Improvement of consistency and international comparability in statistics
 - Development of statistics to meet changes of social or political needs



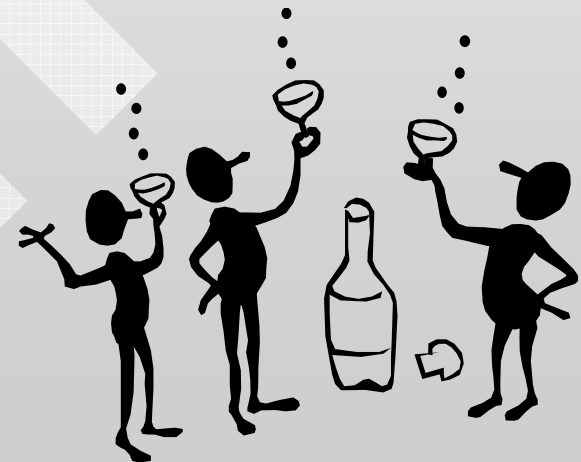
Main Points of Draft Basic Plan (3)

- Other matters necessary to promote the development of official statistics
 - Efficient production of statistics
 - Acquisition and effective utilization of resources for statistics (budget, human resources)
 - Promotion of effective utilization of statistical data
 - Others
- Promotion and assessment of the Basic Plan



Conclusion

- Put new wine into new bottles
- From “statistics for public administration” to “statistics as an information infrastructure of society”
- The Basic Plan is a new prescription for the development of official statistics in Japan



Thank you!

