

International Symposium on  
Development of Official Statistics  
Comments on three papers

Takashi OMORI

(A member of Statistical Commission,  
Government of Japan)

Nov 27, Kyoto Japan

# 1. Changes in environment and needs for statistics

## 1. Globalization

National economy vs. cross-boarder firm activities.  
“SNA + international IO table” may not be sufficient.  
Then what are desirable and feasible alternatives?  
Increased needs for international comparability

## 2. Rapid structural change and increased time costs

Lower accuracy of conventional surveys.  
Need for active use of administrative data to  
improve/maintain quality.  
Privatization as well as increasing role of NPOs.

# 1. Changes in environment and needs for statistics

## 3. Academia and market as heavy users of statistics

Academia would like to use micro- and panel-data.

Academia has a lot of good ideas for new surveys and new tabulations.

Market tends to focus on headline numbers.

Market often complains if the outcome is different from their “feeling”.

Market may not like press conferences.

Both often raise detailed questions.....

-How should statistical authorities take up their requests?

-How far should the governments accommodate special needs by them?

-Quality of statistics can improve a lot if they are made by staff with an experience as a user. How to foster exchange of personnel with those fields?

# 1. Changes in environment and needs for statistics

## 4. Development in ICT technology

Important factor for structural change.

Conventional industry classification less meaningful.

ICT has a profound implication for data collection, processing and dissemination.

## 5. Increased disparities

An important agenda for sustainable growth.

Lack of sufficient data.

# 1. Changes in environment and needs for statistics

All these indicate the need for

## A. MORE EXPERTISE

both in quantity and quality

--- carrier development system

## B. BETTER CORDINATION

across agencies

internationally, and

with users

--- coordination system

# 1. Changes in environment and needs for statistics

**As for carrier development system,**

ONS/GSS in UK is a very important example.

INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique) in France is a good example of combination of statistics (maker) and research (user).

**As for coordination system,**

OMB in US is endowed with the power with respect to budget, personnel and information.

These are the background for effective coordination.

**But what can be done for administrative data held by non-statisticians?**

## 2. Questions

### (1) UK

1. What are the main channels to incorporate **views of users**?
2. What is the proportion of staff who used to be **users** of statistics?
3. UK statistics have been expanding scope for social areas as well as estimation based on outcome. Does the **general public** seem happy with more resources for better statistics?

## 2. Questions

### (2) US

1. What are the examples that OMB directed an agency to make the information it collected **available to another agency**?
2. What is the relationship (demarcation and coordination) between the **Interagency Council** on Statistical Policy and **agency specific** advisory committees?
3. Is there any **guideline for controlling quality** of statistics?  
(e.g. with respect to accuracy, estimation methodology, seasonal adjustment)
4. How are the **views of users**, such as academia and market, are taken into account? Can we have a look at what their requests are and how those requests are incorporated in revisions?



## 2. Questions

### (3) China

1. Does the authority wish to construct a centralized or decentralized national statistical system? What are regarded to be merits and demerits of a centralized system?
2. Should and will there be a common statistical and accounting framework encompassing public, private entities as well as NGOs/NPOs?
3. How far statistics on distribution have been made in terms of income distribution, regional discrepancies and characteristics (eg. size) of firms?

# Thank you!

