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Towards the 2010 Population Census

To ensure the smooth and accurate implementation of the next Population Census scheduled in 2010, the SBJ conducted two pilot surveys since last year in order to test various measures to overcome the difficulties in conducting the Census: based on discussions with local governments, academics, specialists, and private organizations concerning improvement of the survey methods and measures to gain public understanding and cooperation.

In the first pilot survey conducted in July 2007, in which the questionnaires were distributed by enumerators and sent back by mail, we examined the procedures from various viewpoints, such as the collection and completion of the questionnaires, how to monitor and control them, and how to follow up on households that had not yet submitted them.

In the second pilot survey conducted in June 2008, we have examined the effects of improvement to the collection of questionnaires by introducing a new method, in which households could respond to the Census online.

Hereafter, based on the first and second pilot surveys, we will draw up a plan for the 2010 Population Census and conduct the third pilot survey in 2009 as a full-dress rehearsal.