

10th SIAP/ESCAP Management Seminar
7 December 2011

Opening Remarks
by Mr. Takao Itou,
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Ms. Haishan Fu, Director for Statistics Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Ms. Davaasuren Chultemjamts, Director, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, who have arranged the seminar,

Mr. Brian Pink, Australian Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics, the keynote speaker of the seminar,

Director-Generals and Statisticians of National Statistical Offices from twenty-six countries,

Representatives of five United Nations agencies and international organizations,

Senior officials of Japanese government ministries and agencies concerned

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Management Seminar has been organized by ESCAP and SIAP since 2003 (two thousand three) and this is the tenth in the series. It is my great pleasure to say a few words on behalf of

the host government of SIAP on this occasion.

Among others, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support from all over the world and the encouragement from those involved in statistics after the heavy damages caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting tsunamis that occurred on the 11th of March. I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the warm supports received from the international organizations, especially ESCAP, and the national statistical offices in Asia and the Pacific as well as SIAP alumni.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Haishan Fu, Director for Statistics Division, UNESCAP and Ms. Davaasuren Chultemjamts, Director, UNSIAP as well as all the people concerned for your great efforts to organize such a significant seminar.

As I understand, the seminar aims to strengthen the leadership and management capabilities of heads of the National Statistical Offices through exchanging the views and sharing the experiences among the heads of NSOs and its topic is “*Shifting from “stove-pipe” data producer to “information service” provider.*” I expect, the seminar would contribute significantly toward the development of official statistics world over as well as the

progress of economy and society in each country.

In Japan, the new Statistics Act has been enforced since April 2009 (two thousand nine). According to the Act, official statistics are identified as the critical information that serves as the infrastructure for decision-making and is rational from the people's perspective. Although our statistical system is decentralized, the government ministries and agencies producing official statistics work in close cooperation. Therefore, the Government, as one body, is able to implement the Master Plan in an integrated manner. The Government of Japan, as a result, can eliminate the obstacles put by the vertically divided administration structure through the adoption of the new Statistics Act and basically fulfil the role as a provider of collective information services.

In the modern society, your countries might be similar to Japan. You would, therefore, recognize that there are still a lot of issues to be considered in order to improve the framework for the dissemination of official statistics from the viewpoint of users. In such circumstances, I think that it is timely to exchange views about this topic at the seminar.

I hope sincerely that we will exchange valuable opinions on the theme through the keynote speech and panel discussions in the seminar.

In conclusion, I wish that the statistical offices of the respective countries and the related international organizations as well as SIAP will continue to develop further.

Thank you.

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