

# Experiences and Challenges in reporting SDG indicators and the Statistics Reform in Japan

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Hideaki NAKAMURA

Senior Research Officer  
Office for Promoting the Implementation of Statistics Reform  
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC),  
Government of Japan

\*The views expressed herein are those of  
the presenter and should not necessarily be  
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**Japan.**  
Committed  
to SDGs

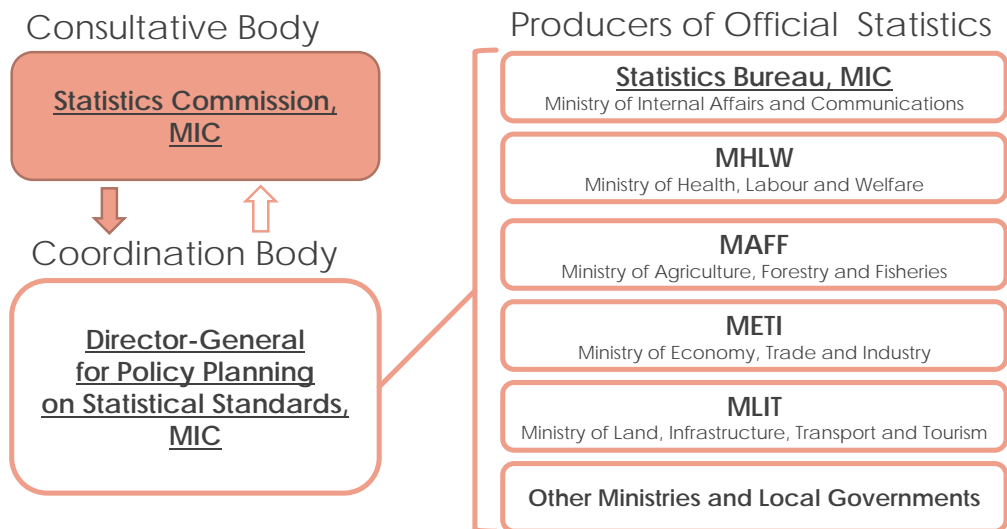


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- 1 Statistical System in Japan
- 2 Approaches to SDG indicators
- 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform
- 4 Revision of NSDS and the Statistics Act

# 1 Statistical System in Japan

- ▶ Japan's statistical system is **decentralized**.



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# 1 Statistical System in Japan

- ▶ Data Collection Method

- ▶ **Censuses/Surveys**

- Censuses

- Population Census, Economic Census, Census of Agriculture and Forestry, etc.

- Surveys

- Labor Force Survey, Retail Price Survey, Family Income and Expenditure Survey, etc.

- ▶ **Use of administrative data**

- CRVS(civil registration and vital statistics), Survey of Medical Institutions, Patient Survey, etc.

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# 1 Statistical System in Japan

- ▶ Dissemination - The Portal Site of Official Statistics, "**e-Stat**"



<http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/eStatTopPortalE.do>

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# 1 Statistical System in Japan

- ▶ Access to Microdata
- ▶ Provision of anonymized microdata
  - **For academic research purposes**, ministries may provide anonymized data.
  - e.g., National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure, Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities, Employment Status Survey, Housing and Land Survey, Labor Force Survey, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions
- ▶ Provision of raw microdata
  - **Only for official statistical purposes**, ministries may provide raw data.
  - We are preparing on-site facilities for researchers who wish to use raw data in secure environment.

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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

### ▶ Promotional Framework in Japan

*“Japan ... will put forth its best possible efforts, together with the international community, to implement this Agenda”*

*Prime Minister Abe at UN Sustainable Development Summit in September, 2015*



### ➤ On May 20, 2016

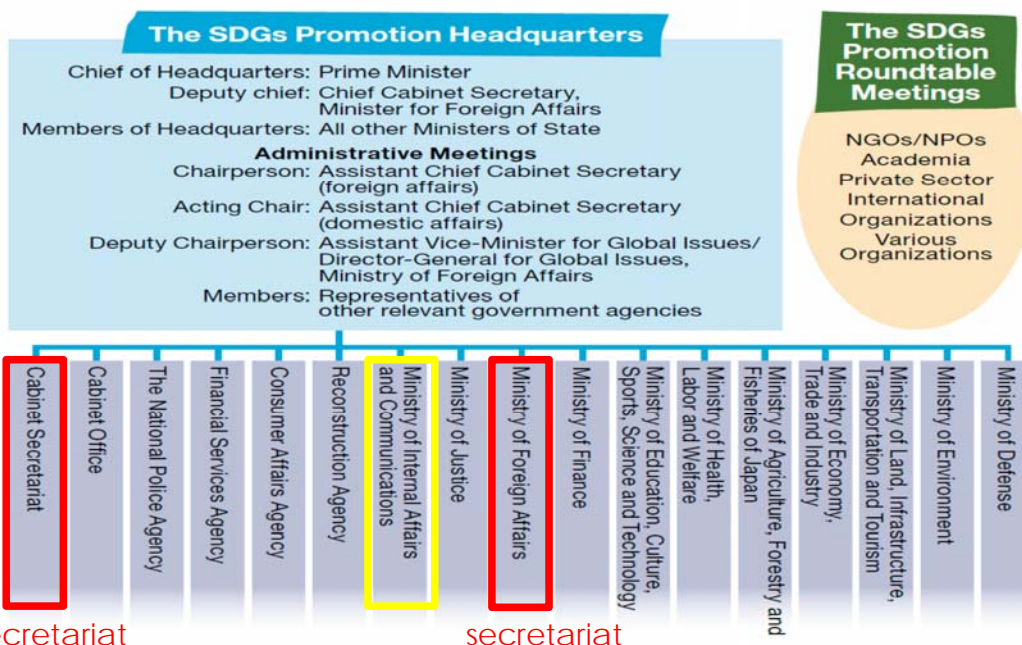
The “SDGs Promotion Headquarters” was established.

This is a new Cabinet body headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers.

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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

### ● The SDGs Promotion Headquarters



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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

- The **“SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles”** was adopted in December 2016 as a national strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- In the Principles, Japan has set out **eight priority areas** that outline what areas among the goals and targets of the SDGs Japan should focus on **in light of the national context**.
- The priority areas are clustered into the **“Five P’s”** upheld in the 2030 Agenda:  
**People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership.**

### **People**

1. Empowerment of All People
2. Achievement of Good Health and Longevity

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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

### **Prosperity**

3. Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas, and Promoting Science Technology and Innovation
4. Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure

### **Planet**

5. Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Sound Material-Cycle Society
6. Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and the Oceans

### **Peace**

7. Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies

### **Partnership**

8. Strengthening the Means and Frameworks for the Implementation of the SDGs


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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

- ▶ Roles of National Statistical Office (MIC) in Japan
  - MIC provides **statistically technical advice for promotion and implementation of SDGs** to the “SDGs Promotion Headquarters”.
  - Under the decentralized statistical system, MIC **coordinates line ministries** and **contributes to the discussion at UN Statistics Commission and Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs)**.
  - MIC **arranges Japan’s data for global SDG indicators** to report properly to the UN.

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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

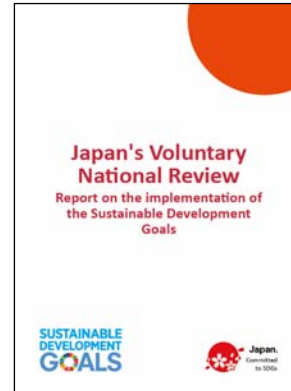
- ▶ Coverage of SDG indicators in Japan
  - In response to the adoption of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, MIC conducted **consultation with line ministries on the availability of official statistics for reporting global the SDG indicators**.
    -  **The consultation result (as of June 2017)**
    - It is anticipated that **Japan could cover around 40% of all 244 global SDG indicators**, provided that proxy indicators (data produced in the national context, not exactly the same as the global indicators) are included.

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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

- The consultation result was included in the Japan's Voluntary National Review at the HLPF (High Level Political Forum) 2017.

In order to achieve the SDGs, Japan attaches great importance to "PPAP" (Public Private Action for Partnership)



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## 2 Approaches to SDG indicators

### ▶ Next Steps

The following efforts are necessary in Japan.

- explore the possibility of using non-official data, such as big data and private sector's data
- start collecting figures for the global SDG indicators
- consider developing the Japan's data dissemination platform

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

- In compiling great number of SDG indicators successfully, **empowerment and strengthening of NSS is crucial.**
- In Japan, **Statistics Reform is now being conducted.**

<October 2015>

Minister of Finance pointed out **"the necessity to enrich basic statistics"** at the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy.

<August 2016>

Minister in charge of Administrative Reform showed **"a sense of distrust for GDP "** at a press conference.

<December 2016>

The group of private-sector members of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy suggested **"the enhancement of governance in the statistical system."**

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

<December, 2016>

**"The Basic Policy on Statistics Reform"** was decided by the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy and the establishment of the Statistics Reform Promotion Council was proposed in the policy.

<January, 2017>

**"The Statistics Reform Promotion Council"** was newly established to promote the EBPM (Evidence-based Policymaking) structure in government as a whole and to respond to demands for the general public not just from the viewpoint of NSS.

<May, 2017>

**"Final Report"** was endorsed by the Statistics Reform Promotion Council.

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

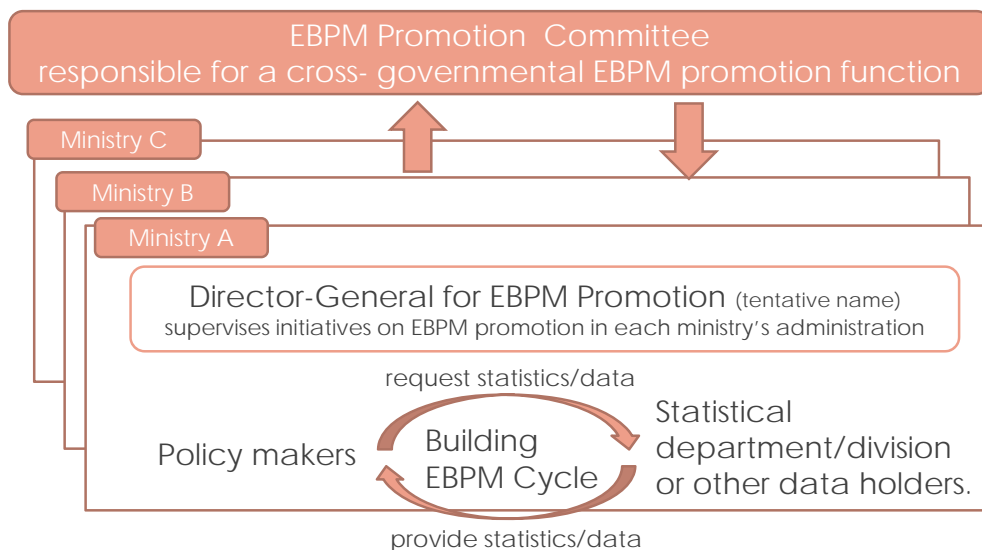
The main points of the “Final Report of the Statistics Reform Promotion Council” are:

- ▶ Building evidence-based policymaking promotion structure
- ▶ Rebuilding the statistical system from the user’s perspective and promoting use of data
- ▶ Reducing the respondents' burden, reviewing the statistical operations and statistical administrative system, streamlining operations and strengthening foundations

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

- ▶ **Building EBPM (evidence-based policymaking) promotion structure**



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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

- ▶ Rebuilding the statistical system from the user's perspective and **promoting Use of Data**

To promote the use of statistics/data in society as a whole, we develop various types of foundations including Statistics/Data Inventories, systems for secure usage, and improvements of the data literacy of users.

e.g.,

- ◆ strengthen the function of e-Stat (the portal site)
- ◆ develop on-site facilities for raw microdata
- ◆ provide anonymized microdata to the general public
- ◆ promote standardization and digitization of administrative data
- ◆ enhance and improve statistical trainings for users

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

- ▶ Reducing the respondents' burden, reviewing the statistical operations and statistical administrative system, streamlining operations and **strengthening foundations**

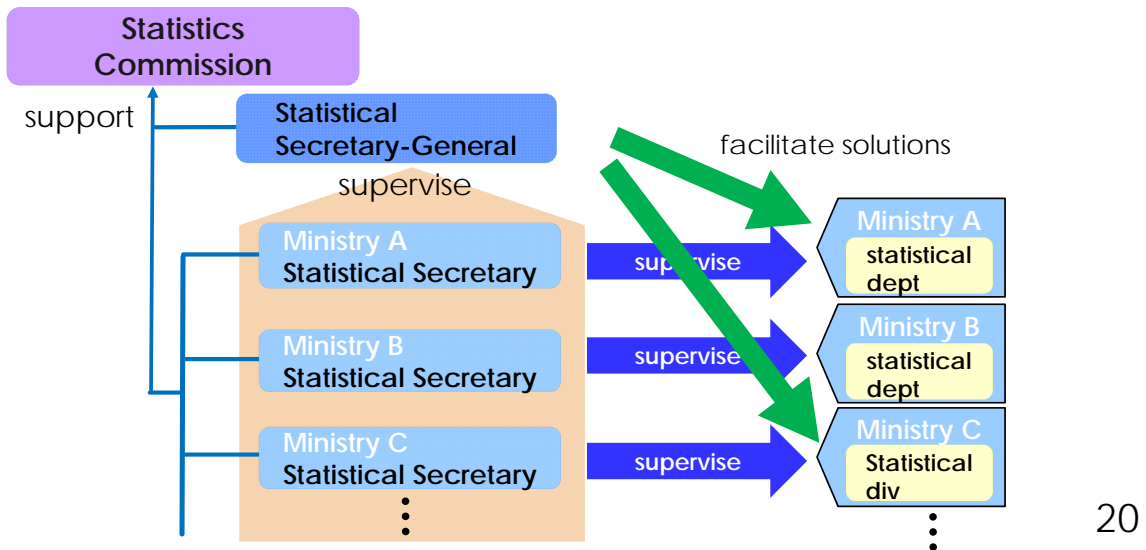
#### 1 Empowering NSS

- **Create a Statistical Secretary** (tentative name) **in each of line ministries** supervising its statistical departments and supporting the Statistics Commission to promote cohesive NSS system.
- **Appoint a Statistical Secretary-General** (tentative name) supervising all Statistical Secretaries and providing the secretariat function of the Statistics Commission.

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### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

<Proposed picture of the new NSS in Japan>



### 3 Implementation of Statistics Reform

#### 2 Strengthening NSS

- **Secure resources** required to implement statistics reforms to firmly accomplish unprecedented renovations in the medium to long term.
- **Formulate a guideline to secure and train human resources** which includes plans to improve the governmental staff's capacity for utilizing or analyzing statistics/data, and to secure and train EBPM personnel.
- **Empowering the function of the Statistics Commission** from the perspective of improving its autonomy, mobility, expertise, impartiality and neutrality (functions of proposals, recommendations and follow-up, resource allocation policy and functions for monitoring statistical demands).

## 4 Revision of NSDS and the Statistics Act

In order to accomplish the goals of Statistics Reform, **Master Plan** and **Statistics Act** are being revised.

- ▶ **Master Plan concerning the development of official statistics**  
(Japan's National Strategy for Development of Statistics)
  - Five-year master plan (F.Y. 2018-2022) to promote Statistics Reform comprehensively and systematically
  - New master plan is to be decided through the consensus of all ministers (i.e., cabinet decision) before March 2018.
- ▶ **Statistics Act**
  - A draft bill is to be submitted to the 2018 ordinary session of the Diet
  - Main point of the revision is to empower the functions of Statistics Commission, that is to say, "to be a playmaker of the statistical administration", so that each ministry cooperates more under the decentralized system.

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# Thank you !

E-mail: [h3.nakamura@soumu.go.jp](mailto:h3.nakamura@soumu.go.jp)

