

The 40 Anniversary of UNSIAP and
the Ninth Management Seminar for
the Heads of NSOs in Asia and the
Pacific

Reform of Japan's Statistical System and Its Lessons - A Personal View

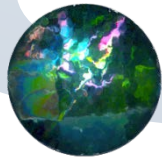
31 August 2010
Tokyo

Shigeru Kawasaki
Director-General
Statistics Bureau, Japan



Statistics Bureau,
Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications

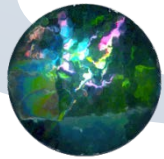
1 About the Reform (1) Process



- 2004 – 2005 Reform Committee (1st Phase)
Focused on new statistical programs
- 2005 – 2006 Reform Committee (2nd Phase)
Focused on the legal framework
- 2006 – 2007 Enactment of the New Statistics Act
Unanimous in the Upper and Lower Houses
Full revision of the former act (1947),
but the key elements were maintained.
e.g. confidentiality, mandatory response, etc.
- 2008 – 2009 Transition to Enforcement
- April 2009 Full Enforcement



1 About the Reform (2) Main Features



< Initiation of New Programs >

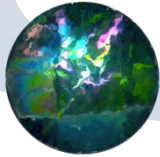
- Economic Census
- Monthly Service Industry Survey

< New Legal Provisions >

- To establish the fundamental principles of official statistics
- To include not only survey statistics but also other types of statistics, e.g. SNA, administrative statistics
- To adopt Five-Year Plan for development of official statistics as the Cabinet's decision
- To designate “core statistics” for mandatory responses
- To allow NSO access to administrative data for compiling statistics subject to agreement
- To provide anonymized microdata for research purposes
- To construct the Central Business Survey Frame



1 About the Reform (3) Outcome



< Merits gained from the Reform >

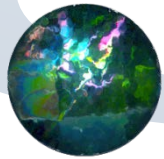
- Values and principles of official statistics are honored.
 - > Helpful for maintaining neutrality
- Higher visibility of existence of official statistics
 - > Stronger support for securing resources
- Increased involvement of users
 - > Better understanding and support from the public

< Shortcomings of the Reform >

- Slow progress in access to administrative data
- Higher expectations to statistics without allocation of additional resources (or with diminishing resources)
- No concrete measures for strengthening the field organization in the local governments



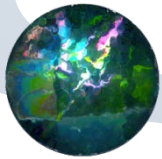
2 Lessons



- a) Reform of the Statistical System is a never-ending process.
----> Preparation in normal times is essential. Develop good plans, and share it with possible collaborators.
- b) Needs for statistics are expanding beyond the resources.
----> NSO should concentrate its resources on high-priority fields. Collaboration with other organizations will be helpful.
- c) Gaining support from users and the general public is important both in the reform and in the day-to-day operations.
----> Data dissemination and public relations should go hand in hand. Make users and respondents understand each other.
- d) Statisticians need better knowledge of non-statistical subject such as management and legal matters.
----> Scope of training has to be expanded.



5 + 1 Subjects for Staff Development



**Statistical
Methodology**

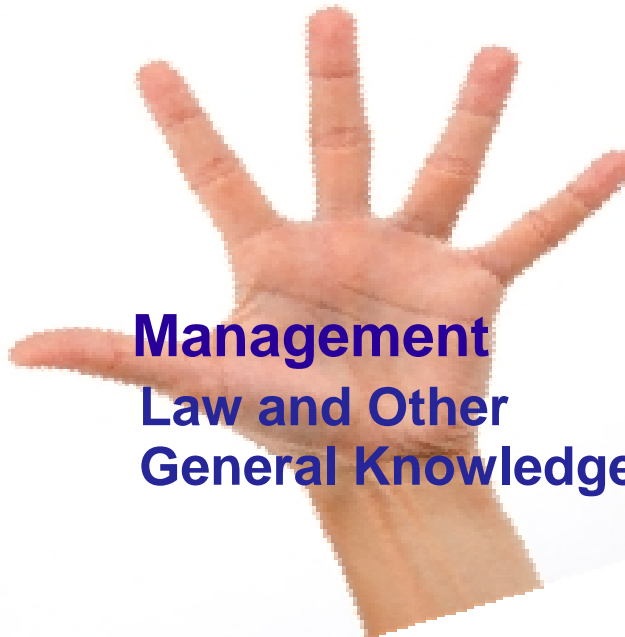
**Information
Technology**

Economics

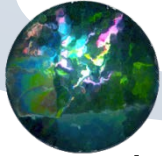
**International
Relations**

**Demography &
Social Science**

**Management
Law and Other
General Knowledge**



3 Roles of the Head of NSO



a) **Develop and provide statistical products and services that satisfy user needs.**

Relevance and credibility of the output of NSO is essential for sound development. User needs including those unexpressed are important for improvement. Learning from international good practices is helpful.

b) **Communicate with the public about values and principles of official statistics.**

“Evidence Based Policy” should be promoted. Support from opinion leaders will be an important driver. Statistical education will create favorable environment for official statistics.

c) **Motivate staff to learn and improve by sharing visions and values.**

Learning new knowledge and skills and putting them into practice is necessary for new developments. To this end, the head him/herself should keep learning and thinking together with the staff.



In conclusion ...

Inform the public about the role of statistics
How statistics are made and used in society

