

# **Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics**

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## Introduction

In March 2009, “The Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” (hereafter the “1st Term Master Plan”) was formulated to plan the comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures for the development of official statistics, based on the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 in 2007), which was revised entirely in 2007. Now, five years have passed and, although various types of policies based on the 1st Term Master Plan have been promoted, significant changes in the socio-economic situation surrounding statistics have occurred, including the beginning of serious population decline, economic policies aimed at an end to deflation, and institutional changes such as deregulation.

Under such situation, it is indispensable for the government as a whole to advance ongoing measures based on the purpose and objective of the Statistics Act while taking into consideration new needs and the changes in the socio-economic situation, so that official statistics can fully play their role of important information that forms a rational basis for the people’s decision making.

Therefore, based on Article 4 of the Statistics Act, in consideration of the changes in the socio-economic situation surrounding statistics and based on the evaluation of the effects of the measures for the development of official statistics made through deliberations by the Statistics Committee, it is hereby decided to revise the 1st Term Master Plan into a new “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” (hereafter the “2nd Term Master Plan”) beginning in FY2014. The government will steadily and systematically promote the contents of the 2nd Term Master Plan.

In addition, the 2nd Term Master Plan follows the text and the attached table forms of the 1st Term Master Plan and lists the process and needs for the measures contained in the text, the future direction, and ongoing measures in a separate table of specific measures and policies to take during the next five years and of ministries in charge.

## I. Basic Perspective and Policies in Developing Measures

The basic policy of the 1st Term Master Plan is, in order to "promote systematic and efficient development of official statistics and thereby to contribute to the sound development of the national economy and enhancement of the living standards of the citizens," as provided in Article 1 of the Statistics Act, to develop various measures based on the following basic perspectives: (1) systematic development of statistics, (2) response to environmental changes in the economy and society, (3) promotion of effective use of statistical data, and (4) efficient production of statistics, and securing and making effective use of statistical resources.

In relevant ministries, progress has been made in concrete measures such as the following based on these perspectives, in line with the 1st Term Master Plan for the most part: (1) Creation of Economic Structure Statistics (Fundamental Statistics), (2) Improvement of the estimation accuracy of National Accounts (Fundamental Statistics), (3) Construction of Business Register, (4) Production of statistics through entrustment (hereafter "tailor-made tabulation") and promotion of production and provision of anonymized data, etc. Even so, the environment surrounding Official Statistics, including securing the budget and staff for implementation of statistical surveys, production and provision of Official Statistics (hereafter "statistical resources"), is becoming ever more severe.

On the other hand, Official Statistics are expected to promote evidence-based policy making, and to achieve contributions to scientific research or industrial creation. In order to respond to these requests as well as to produce and provide statistics on economy and employment trends, etc. on a more timely and accurate basis, it is further necessary to emphasize and clarify the basic perspectives in developing measures in the 2nd Term Master Plan. Moreover, these basic perspectives also need to have the cross-cutting characteristics of the whole measures provided in the plan.

For these reasons, in the 2nd Term Master Plan, in order to promote systematic development continuing to aim at "securing and improving statistical usefulness," which is also stated as an important target in the 1st Term Master Plan, the government as a whole shall promote various measures that emphasize the following viewpoints.

### 1 Securing and improving compatibility between statistics

In the systematic development of Official Statistics centered on Fundamental Statistics, the aim is to secure and improve compatibility between statistics, such as by building a new framework for industrially-related economic structure statistics with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis.

Moreover, improvement in comparability between statistics, such as by arranging employment and labor-related terms and definitions, is also aimed at.

Furthermore, consideration shall be made on how statistics should be newly developed, such as adjusting items which should be surveyed commonly in relevant economic-statistics surveys, or producing statistics that utilize the common establishment codes of the Business Register.

## 2 Securing and improving international comparability of statistics

In developing National Accounts, securing and improving international comparability is aimed at, such as by corresponding to 2008SNA, which is the international standard adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission from 2008 to 2009.

Also along with contributing to the consideration of international standards and guidelines for various statistics, such as the revision of international standards on employment and unemployment at the International Labour Organization (ILO), efforts shall be made to produce and provide statistics based on these trends. In addition, the burden on people answering questionnaires and the feasibility of surveys should be also considered when securing and improving international comparability.

## 3 Adequate responses toward environmental changes in the economy and society

Efforts shall be made to improve statistics that correspond to economic globalization, such as concerning conformity with standards at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the dissemination of economic and financial statistics, as well as on countermeasures against global warming and other environmental issues, in order to promote the following measures in “Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform —Ending Deflation and Revitalizing the Economy—”(Cabinet decision on June 14, 2013, hereafter the “Basic Policies”): (1) Measures maximizing the benefits of globalization (Strategy of Global Outreach), (2) Making contributions to the global environment, (3) Ensuring economic dimensions of national security including energy and resources and promoting strategic diplomacy, etc.

In addition to gender statistics based on “The Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality“ (Cabinet decision made in December 17, 2010), the production and provision of statistics concerning changes in the environment/needs of the economy and society, including the revision of existing statistics aimed at improving tables of statistics by region and by age, shall be promoted, in order to promote the following measures in the Basic Policies mentioned in the previous paragraph: (1) enable women to realize their full potential, (2) overcome the declining birthrate, (3) promote the participation of young and elderly people, and (4) develop local communities based on their unique distinctive features. Furthermore, the production and provision of statistics, including the utilization of existing statistics, shall be further promoted, in order to contribute to the implementation of the effective PDCA<sup>i)</sup> in the Basic Policies.

In addition, changes in the economic environment, including the hike in the consumption tax rate, shall be dealt with appropriately.

Also, securing necessary statistical resources (including functional maintenance of the system for conducting statistical surveys, which is the foundation for the production and provision of statistics) and increasing people’s understanding shall be promoted. At the same time, everyday preparations for disasters shall be strengthened, based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

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<sup>i)</sup> The cycle of plan–do–check–action

#### 4 Promotion of accurate and efficient production of statistics

Based on the presently severe condition of the administrative and financial situation and survey environment, statistics shall be produced and provided efficiently, while securing statistical accuracy, such as by utilizing administrative-records information and promoting online surveys considering the progress made in information and communication technology (ICT).

Also the utilization of the Business Register and the promotion of accuracy and efficiency of the production of statistics shall be developed. At the same time, the reduction of respondents' burden shall be pursued, such as by reducing the overlapping of sampling (i.e. preventing a respondent from being selected as a sample in too many surveys) and reducing the number of survey items.

#### 5 Promotion of the open statistical data and transparency of the statistical production process

In addition to improving the quality reports concerning statistics production methods and estimation methods, much improvement in the transparency of the statistics production process shall be aimed at, such as by considering the introduction of a process<sup>ii)</sup> assurance.

Also, the provision of statistical data depending on the type of use shall be considered, based on the security level or level of anonymity, such as for the tailor-made tabulation from the perspective of easing use conditions.

Furthermore, regarding the Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan (e-Stat), measures to make statistical data more open shall be further promoted, such as by providing an API function<sup>iii)</sup> and promoting technical research aimed at improving statistics that can be seen on maps (statistics GIS), etc.

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<sup>ii)</sup> Measure for the effective management of the process for implementing statistics investigation

<sup>iii)</sup> An API (Application Programming Interface) is an interface for building software applications to enable a computer program to automatically obtain statistical data.



## II. Matters Concerning the Development of Official Statistics

### 1 Development of economy-related statistics

#### (1) Development of National Accounts

National Accounts are not only important economic statistics themselves, but are also regarded as the foundation for concepts, definitions, record principles, etc. for related statistics. Moreover, guidelines for the design of each statistical survey and frameworks for securing compatibility of statistical data are also included. For these reasons, it is important to compile National Accounts corresponding to international trends precisely. Furthermore, Japan is also required, as a major developed economy, to play a leading part in the international discussion and to contribute to the development of National Accounts.

Regarding matters related to the National Accounts in the 1st Term Master Plan, the measures were mainly taken in “The 2005 benchmark revision,” released in December 2011.

On the other hand, concerning future estimates for the National Accounts, the most important point is to aim at securing and improving estimation accuracy, based on changes in basic statistics, such as appropriately dealing with changes in the economic environment, including the hike in the consumption tax rate. Regarding the 2015 annual estimates of National Accounts, which correspond to accounting matters included in the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity, it is necessary to change the form of data of the manufacturing industry from structure statistics to trend statistics (known as “alternative estimation”). In addition to these measures, in the next benchmark revision scheduled for around 2016, it will be necessary to aim at correspondence with 2008SNA, which is a new international standard for the National Accounts agreed at the United Nations, and other important issues also need to be addressed, such as the development of the Quarterly Estimates of GDP by production approach and income approach. Furthermore, to achieve these measures while striving to improve information provision and make production methods much more transparent, strengthening the collaboration between the National Accounts and primary statistics is indispensable.

For these reasons, in the 2nd Master Plan, the following measures are prioritized.

#### a) Securing and improving accuracy

While dealing with changes in basic statistics including the Economic Census for Business Activity, in aiming at securing and improving the accuracy of the National Accounts, it is necessary to build and strengthen a framework for estimation, such as by producing Supply and Use Tables (SUT) of the National Accounts that are compatible with Input-Output Tables (Fundamental Statistics).

At the time of estimating for a benchmark year, the collaboration between the National Accounts and the Input-Output Tables shall be strengthened by efforts to ensure compatibility through information sharing between the departments that produce these statistics. Moreover, at the time of estimating for non-benchmark years, while striving to improve accuracy by developing primary statistics and through the sophistication of estimation methods, efforts shall be made to ensure compatibility through information sharing between the department that produces the National

Accounts and the department that produces the updated Input-Output Tables. Furthermore, the system for checking calculation shall be strengthened by reconstructing the estimation operating system for the National Accounts.

b) Improving international comparability

From the perspective of improving international comparability, it is necessary to aim at developing and enhancing further measures, such as the review of concrete estimation methods for the revision corresponding to 2008SNA, or the response for comparisons with other countries with different rates of value-added tax.

For these reasons, the department producing the National Accounts now considers the pros and cons and the possibility of revisions corresponding to 2008SNA, and on the basis of the results, progress in transition shall be made after prioritizing revision items.

Moreover, concerning response to the basic price estimation in the Input-Output Tables and the National Accounts, it is necessary to consider the issue taking account of the basic data on indirect tax and subsidies, and the handling of various primary statistics on indirect tax. Based on the results of such consideration, the estimation in basic price shall be aimed at in the next Input-Output Tables (the tables to follow the 2011 tables, which are currently being produced).

c) Development of information provision

In order to aim at improving the usefulness of the National Accounts and developing the Regional Economic Accounts, the development and enhancement of measures shall be promoted, such as the enhancement of quarterly estimates, provision of figures for long-term series, and strengthening support for the enhancement of Regional Economic Accounts.

d) Collaboration strengthening with primary statistics, etc.

In order to solve issues stemming from basic statistics of the National Accounts, while considering the respondents' burden and the effect of developing basic statistics, the aim is to advance and enhance measures, for example, to promote further development and utilization of primary statistics which serve as the basis for estimation.

(2) Systematic development of industry-related statistics with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis

a) Development of Economic Structure Statistics

In the past, statistics surveys about economic activities in Japan were carried out in different years and periods for each industrial field, and statistical surveys on the service industry, which has been becoming more important in recent years, were not sufficiently developed. Therefore, it was impossible to comprehensively grasp the industrial structure of one point in time, even by integrating the results of existing large-scale statistics surveys. Economic Structure Statistics, which were founded under such situation, clarify the economic activities of establishments and enterprises

on a nationwide and regional basis by providing a comprehensive picture of the economic activity of all industrial fields in Japan at one point in time, and they also serve as the basis for industry-related statistics by providing basic data for the estimation of National Accounts and the Input-Output Tables, etc., and information of population for various statistical surveys on establishments and enterprises, etc.

Economic Structure Statistics are Fundamental Statistics consisting of two Fundamental Statistical Surveys, the Economic Census for Business Frame, and the Economic Census for Business Activity. The first Economic Census for Business Frame was conducted in 2009 and the publication of results was completed in December 2011. The first Economic Census for Business Activity was conducted in 2012 and the publication of results completed in February 2014. The 2012 Economic Census for Business Activity was conducted based on the reconsideration on how the survey should be, including the simplification of survey items, because of the inevitable rescheduling of the survey date from summer 2011 (date originally agreed by relevant ministries) to February 2012.

The 2014 Economic Census for Business Frame is planned to newly survey annual turnover (income) in order to complement the data of the Business Register that was started from January 2013. And at the same time, it is planned to rearrange the division of roles of the national government, local public entities, enumerators, and private enterprises according to the 2012 Economic Census for Business Activity, so as to reduce the business burden of enumerators and local public entities.

Concerning the Economic Structure Statistics, how they should be after 2016 needs to be considered, based on the start of full-capacity operation of the Business Register, changes in the socio-economic situation, the implementation situation of the Economic Census for Business Frame and the Economic Census for Business Activity, etc.

Therefore, concerning the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity, in order to improve the smooth implementation of surveys and the accuracy of results, the survey plans shall be reviewed based on issues that were made clearer by the evaluation results of the 2012 Economic Census for Business Activity, by such means as implementing surveys when the survey conditions are favorable, considering the burden on respondents and the local public entity as well as the utilization of the results.

Moreover, based on the development status of the Business Register, how the statistical survey should be for the information of population in the year between the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity and the next one, which will be held in 5 years' time, i.e., the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity shall be considered.

b) Construction of the new framework with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis

In the "Framework of the Economic Census" decided in 2006, along with the implementation of the Economic Census for Business Frame and the Economic Census for Business activity, the relation between these Censuses and existing

relevant statistical surveys was arranged. Relevant ministries are taking measures provided in the framework.

On the other hand, the conditions surrounding the Economic Structure Statistics have greatly changed with the full-capacity operation of the Business Register, the implementation and the review of the Economic Census for Business Frame, and the Economic Census for Business Activity, etc.

Concerning the improvement of the accuracy of various economic statistics, in order to comprehend various economic activities, the construction of the product classification, including services that are not established yet, based on the demand side's concept is useful. However, the product classification in services is not settled yet. Furthermore, concerning accounting items, such as sales, in various economic statistics, it is necessary to address the issue of different accounting treatments (consumption tax included or not) for each enterprise.

For these reasons, the construction of a new framework including how Economic Census for Business Activity should be and the division of roles related to large-scale statistical surveys should be considered, while conducting a step-by-step consideration aiming at the establishment of product classifications, including services classification. Moreover, concerning the handling of the consumption tax in the compilation of sales data (adjustment for consumption tax included and not included), considerations shall be developed on how the results should be disseminated, taking into account the respondents' burden and collaborating with National Accounts and Input-Output Tables.

### (3) Development of statistics related to the service industry

The ratio of the tertiary industry in the economy of Japan represents 70 percent of the GDP, yet the statistics related to the service industry are developed like a mosaic for each sector of industry, and their global structures were not clear. From such a background, the Monthly Survey on Service Industries was created and from January 2013 revisions were made including the improvement of accuracy by introducing a corporate unit survey and the data of sales by prefecture. In such way the development of statistics related to the service industry is ongoing.

However, statistics related to the service industry are becoming more and more important for understanding the actual condition of the socio-economy with more accuracy. More than ever, the development of the statistics of the service industry and further improvement of the accuracy of existing statistics are needed.

For these reasons, concerning the Monthly Survey on Service Industries and the Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity, efforts shall continuously be made to secure and improve their usefulness, and studies shall be developed on how statistics should be produced for the understanding on the value-added structures which are important for the understanding of the whole structure of the service industry.

### (4) Development of statistics related to corporate activities

As part of the statistics development concerning corporate activities, relevant ministries created and conducted the Basic Survey on the Information and

Communications Industry as well as the Survey of Pure Holding Companies, etc. so they are aiming to comprehend the corporate activities and the companies' services in specific fields.

On the other hand, according to the diversification, grouping, etc. of corporate activities, there are requests for the development of statistics for comprehending corporate activities more accurately, and especially the need to comprehend the overall industry has increased in regard to the division of labor in company and enterprise groups as well as their dealings, services, etc. Also, by establishment unit, it is becoming difficult to comprehend accounting items such as expenses, and stock items such as capital and lands. Therefore, it is necessary to consider such issues in the development of statistics concerning corporate activities.

For these reasons, concerning the existing statistical surveys for the enterprises conducted by relevant ministries, after arranging the subjects that needed to be comprehended in common for all industries, and focusing on the Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities (Fundamental Statistical Survey), consideration shall be made aiming at creating and providing gradually the joint-statistics utilizing the Business Register. At the same time, attention shall be paid to the status of consideration of how the Economic Census for Business Activity should be and the role division with the related large-scale statistical surveys in the consideration of the new framework with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis.

Consideration about producing and providing statistics which clarify the dealings in a company and the activities of enterprise groups shall be developed, and consideration to improve the accuracy of the Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry (Fundamental Statistical Surveys) shall continue.

#### (5) Development of statistics corresponding to globalization of economic activity

In relation to the globalization of economic activity, relevant ministries are advancing efforts to improve the comprehension of respondents in the Survey of Overseas Business Activities, and to estimate and disseminate main items of the government financial statistics in the 2005 benchmark revision of National Accounts.

On the other hand, the Basic Policies and the “Japan Revitalization Strategy —JAPAN is BACK—” (Cabinet decision June 14, 2013; hereafter “Japan Revitalization Strategy”), suggest measures that realize continuous growth taking advantage of the merits of globalization, so the Balance of Payments, which consists of statistics comprehending global business transactions and globalization of enterprises, Trade Statistics, and statistics concerning overseas business activity are becoming more important.

According to the G20 data gap initiative, which is based on the lessons learned from the fiscal crisis of 2008 and calls for the development of necessary data, development was carried out due to the designation of risks that could become the cause of a crisis, and the IMF is requesting participation in the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS Plus).

For these reasons, the extent to which revision of the Balance of Payments is established based on the Balance of Payments Manual, 6th edition, and users' response shall be followed up. Further measures about more accurate comprehension of advanced

use of information concerning the merchandise trade of enterprises and overseas business activities shall be addressed.

Moreover, consideration of the development of data required for participation in SDDS Plus shall be promoted.

## 2 Development of economic statistics according to field

### (1) Development of statistics related to the environment

Regarding the global environment problem, which is an important global issue as well as causing increasing national concern also in Japan, the development of statistics as the foundation of working towards solutions is indispensable. As a part of this measure, relevant ministries are advancing the development of statistics relevant to the measures against global warming, etc., such as advancing statistical data about the emission and absorption of greenhouse gases, and comprehension of waste and by-products.

On the other hand, the “Basic Environment Plan” (Cabinet Decision on April 27, 2012), sets out the development of statistics about the environment, while Basic Policies and Japan Revitalization Strategy, suggest contributions to the global environment, and overcoming environmental and energy restrictions, etc. Appropriate measures for these needs that surround the environment and energy are necessary.

Moreover, although greenhouse gas emissions are computed by combining the statistics of various related fields, improvement of the accuracy of statistics about waste, energy, etc. has been an important issue.

Regarding the Input-Output Tables for environmental analysis, highly accurate data on the amount of input, etc. by section that would be base of the Table, was not obtained in the production of the 2005 tables, and this issue needs to be resolved toward the production of the 2011 tables.

For these reasons, continued measures for consideration of further development of statistical data about emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases, such as comprehending the carbon-dioxide-emissions from households, and of increasing the accuracy of statistics about waste, etc. and earlier dissemination shall be taken. So statistical data about energy consumption shall be elaborated, and high-precision Input-Output Tables for environmental analysis shall be produced.

Moreover, to promote the development of the Input-Output Tables for environmental analysis, cooperation between processed statistics shall be promoted so that consistent analysis would become possible on the concepts and numerical values of total energy statistics, the Input-Output Tables and National Accounts.

### (2) Development of statistics related to tourism

Concerning the development of statistics related to tourism, since the “Basic Plan to Promote Japanese Tourism” (Cabinet Decision on June 29, 2007) and the “Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008” by the United Nations Statistical Commission call for appropriate development, relevant ministries are working to enhance the National Tourism Survey and the Accommodation Survey, formulate common standards concerning Statistics on Inbound Tourists by Prefecture, and compile and disseminate the Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA).

However, since, with regard to the Statistics on Inbound Tourists there is the issue of improvement in stability of the survey results, and with regard to TSA there are unproduced tables, etc., continued measures for improving accuracy are necessary. Moreover, in order to comprehend conditions in the tourist resort regions in Japan, consideration about how the Regional Tourism Economic Survey, which was newly carried out in 2012, should be in the future is needed in considering the production of statistics linked with the results of the Economic Census for Business Activity. Furthermore, in addition to the above-mentioned surveys, the Consumption Trend Survey for Foreigners Visiting Japan has been developed as Official Statistics, but statistics about sightseeing were produced by various public and private organizations for various purposes, so there still remain issues in order to use these statistics systematically.

Moreover, the new “Basic Plan to Promote Japanese Tourism” (Cabinet Decision on March 30, 2012), urges for the development and utilization of statistics related to tourism, and Japan Revitalization Strategy seeks further utilization of tourist resources, so it is necessary to develop tourism-related statistics.

For these reasons, while making further improvements and enhancements to TSA and the Statistics on Inbound Tourists by Prefecture, measures shall be taken to improve the accuracy of the Accommodation Survey, the National Tourism Survey and the Consumption Trend Survey for Foreigners Visiting Japan. Moreover, consideration shall be made about the systematic development of tourism-related statistics, including how the Regional Tourism Economic Survey should be.

### (3) Development of statistics related to transport

Regarding statistics related to transport, consideration about the improvement of comparability among transportation modes<sup>iv)</sup> and about the promotion of development and cooperation corresponding to socio-economic changes, etc., in addition to stability and continuity of statistics, is necessary.

Moreover, improvement in the comparability of land transportation and marine transportation, and systematically developing statistics about transport centered on the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport (Fundamental Statistics) are also needed, taking the opportunity of the decision of “The Comprehensive Logistics Policy Outline (2013–2017)” (Cabinet Decision on June 25, 2013).

For these reasons, the development of statistics related to transport, such as unification of transportation freight article classifications and the comprehension of transport by item, improvement in the accuracy of statistics which comprehend fuel consumption in coastal marine services and cars, and development of statistics centered on the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport, shall be promoted.

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<sup>iv)</sup> Means of transport, such as railroads, ships, cars, and airplanes.

#### (4) Development of statistics related to construction and real estate

Regarding the development of statistics related to construction, the environment surrounding the construction market is changing drastically amidst the situation in which the number of new building starts has fallen to less than half of the peak number while the birthrate is declining and population is aging. Therefore, for the analysis of economic trends and the development of relevant measures, it is becoming increasingly important to accurately comprehend the situation of the construction market. In particular, regarding the Building Extension and Renovation Survey, the lack of data distinguishing investment for the purpose of improving standard functions from other investment, and other issues, require urgent attention.

Regarding the development of statistics related to real estate, in order to more accurately comprehend the real estate (land and building) stock of a company along with the 1st Term Master Plan, the Corporation Survey on Land (Fundamental Statistical Survey) to be implemented in a cycle of five years and the closely-related Corporation Survey on Buildings were unified and implemented as the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings (Fundamental Statistical Survey) in 2013. In addition to this measure, the survey on the land acquisition situation, etc. of companies that was carried out every year to comprehend the trends (flow) in land acquisition, was also unified and conducted together with the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings. Therefore, based on policy needs, it is necessary to reorganize the necessity and positioning of the survey on flows in interim years after 2014. In addition, when systematically developing statistics about land in Japan, it is necessary to consider unincorporated enterprises and households in addition to corporations.

For these reasons, regarding investment on building extension and renovation, for the purpose of reflecting such information in the Integrated Statistics on Construction Works and to the National Accounts, measures shall be promoted for accurate comprehension of the amount of investment, etc. in building extension and renovation, including the arrangement for handling statistics that overlap with those on the amount of investment in building extension and renovation that are partly comprehended by the Building Starts Statistics (Fundamental Statistics).

Also, after examining the need for continuous comprehension of the flow of land acquisition in the interim year between the five-year cycle of the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings, consideration shall be made on structurally comprehending the information on flow and stock. Moreover, on the basis of results of the 2013 Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings and other surveys, the method used to comprehend the whole situation of possession and use of land in Japan shall be examined.

### 3 Development of statistics related to population and society, and to labor

#### (1) Development of comprehensive statistics about social security

From the perspective of raising comparability with foreign countries' statistics, the Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan (Fundamental Statistics), which comprehensively show the whole situation of social security, were designated as



Fundamental Statistics and improvement of their compatibility with statistics based on various kinds of international standards, including the National Accounts, is aimed at.

Also, regarding the National Health Accounts based on the System of Health Accounts (SHA) methods in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), efforts are made toward developing elaboration and totalization, and improving in tabulation in consideration of international compatibility by utilizing administrative record information in the Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure, which are important processed statistics in the medical insurance system or medical economics.

Under the situation of rapid advance of birthrate decline and population aging, much more enhancement of the statistical data to be provided for these statistics is sought after against the background of the increase of public concern about social security measures. In addition, since consideration of SHA methods in OECD continues, it is necessary to deal with further improvement in international comparability.

For these reasons, with regard to the Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan, efforts shall be made for much earlier dissemination, subdivision of the tabulation items, etc. Also, concerning the National Health Accounts based on SHA methods, efforts shall be continued to improve the accuracy of existing statistics that form the basis of the estimates, and are aimed at improving international comparability by taking active part in the SHA amendment in OECD.

Moreover, with regard to the statistics related to medical treatment, welfare and care, related statistical systems shall be clarified and improvement in convenience and usefulness shall be aimed at, as these statistics are produced on the basis of many statistical surveys and much administrative record information and provided.

## (2) Development of statistics corresponding to the depopulating society and work life balance

Relevant ministries are taking measures such as (1) adding survey items which analyze the relationship between employment and marriage, raising children and care, (2) adding new samples for the Longitudinal Survey of Babies in the 21st Century to verify differences according to generation, and (3) enhancing tabulation, in related statistics, in order to accurately comprehend the progress of the birthrate decline and population aging, the present condition of work life balance, and changing lifestyles.

However, in Japan, as the results of the 2010 Population Census (Fundamental Statistical Survey) show, the depopulation of society has entered full swing, and it is further necessary to develop statistics for comprehending the changing social structure more accurately, including the present condition of the work life balance, based on the birthrate declining and population aging, such as the accelerating rate of population aging and the rapidly decreasing working-age population ratio.

For these reasons, relevant ministries shall make efforts for not only reexamination of the survey methods, earlier dissemination, common knowledge about estimation methods provided to local entities, etc. about the Fundamental Statistics which clarify population figures, such as the Population Census and the Current Population Estimates, but also reexaminations of the survey contents and enhancement of the tabulation by

area about the statistics which clarify the basic matters of social living and lives of citizens, such as the Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities (Fundamental Statistics) and the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (Fundamental Statistics).

Also, according to the purpose of use, relevant ministries shall devise the tabulation methods and provide statistical data which clarify the situation of a specific age group in detail.

(3) Development of statistics that respond to the changes in the situation surrounding education, etc.

Regarding statistics related to school education and statistics for analyzing the relationship between education and social life, employment and labor, relevant ministries are sequentially conducting improvement and consideration of additional pertinent educational details such as academic background, from the perspective of comprehensively comprehending the responses to environmental change surrounding school education and the function of education.

On the other hand, statistics related to school education are needed for a more accurate comprehension of both the condition of the social problem of bullying and of household expenditure on education, etc., against the background of the burden of expenditure related to the cost of education.

Regarding the related statistics for analyzing the relationship between education and social life, employment and labor, it is requested to develop statistics (longitudinal survey) which accurately apprehend the life course from school education to employment aiming at the improvement of the job situation, including such problems as early loss of employment, unemployment, and employment mismatch among young people in recent years.

For these reasons, regarding statistics related to school education, it is necessary to aim at improving the survey contents in the Survey of Household Expenditure on Education per Student after taking respondents' burden into consideration along with taking measures to set objective survey standards in the Statistics on Student Guidance, which comprehend the conditions of bullying, etc. by prefecture. In addition, consideration shall be made toward the realization of statistics which accurately apprehend life course from school education to employment, including cooperation with existing statistical surveys. Furthermore, regarding the Social Education Survey (Fundamental Statistical Surveys) for which the Board of Education bears an important role, statistics development from the larger view of lifelong learning shall be considered based on the results of the Central Council for Education's deliberation on how the board-of-education system should be.

(4) Development of labor statistics that correspond to changes in corporate activities and diversification in the ways of working, etc.

With regard to related statistics for analyzing changes in corporate activities and diversification in the ways of working, etc., relevant ministries are taking such measures as adding survey items for further appropriate comprehension of the period for fixed-term employment contracts and actual work hours, etc., in order to comprehend the state

of non-regular employment, which has continued to expand in recent years, and the state of the labor market.

However, based on Japan Revitalization Strategy, new measures are being promoted, such as policy change from employment sustainability to labor fluidity and realizing various ways of working, and the ILO is making progress in reexamining the concept and the definition of “unemployed person,” etc., so it is further necessary to promote the development and enhancement of statistics corresponding to such changes. Moreover, in order to improve the compatibility and comparability between employment and labor statistics, it is requested to consider the classification of terms, the arrangement and reexamination of concepts related to labor patterns and employment patterns.

For these reasons, regarding labor statistics, such measures shall be promoted as the arrangement and reexamination of worker classifications which ascertain responses to reexamination of the international standards and the state of non-regular employment, etc. along with the consideration of a more accurate comprehension of changes in the employment pattern in individual companies.

### III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics

#### 1 Streamlining of statistics production, and alleviating the burden on respondents

##### (1) Development and utilization of the Business Register

The Business Register is aimed at producing accurate and efficient statistics and alleviating the burden on respondents, and based on the provisions of Article 27 (1) of the Statistics Act, progress is being made in development using methods including use of questionnaire information concerning Fundamental Statistical Surveys or General Statistical Surveys, and verification of corporations and other organizations.

The operation system of the Business Register began in January 2013, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), which has jurisdiction over the register. The MIC has recorded such information as the results of the main economic statistical surveys, including the 2009 Economic Census for Business Frame, and the results of verification of companies and establishments that utilized administrative record information (commerce and incorporation registration information, labor insurance information, and EDINET<sup>v)</sup> information). Moreover, the production and provision of the annual frame<sup>vi)</sup> also began in FY2013, which is information of population for statistical surveys of establishments and enterprises.

On the other hand, with respect to the Business Register, since it is requested to produce tabulations combining the data of different statistical surveys by using common establishment codes, provide information for imputation in existing statistics, and complete and demonstrate other new functions as well as to provide information of population for promoting statistical development accurately and effectively, and eliminate overlapping surveys to decrease the burden on respondents, it is necessary to promote further collecting and utilization of the data along with taking measures to develop accurate information of population.

For these reasons, with regard to the production and provision of the annual frame, retention of the common establishment codes, and adjustment and support required for the retention, measures shall be strengthened and continued continuously while cooperation with relevant ministries shall be promoted.

Moreover, in the future development of information of population, measures shall be promoted with an emphasis on the use of new administrative records and private sector information and the expansion of the business of verifying companies and establishments taking the examples of foreign countries and the burden of respondents and survey enforcers, etc. into consideration. In addition, efforts shall be made for personnel training, organization development, etc. in these measures.

Furthermore, from the perspective of effective utilization of data and the perspective of comprehending economic activity in a more accurate and timely manner, measures shall be promoted in order to produce and provide new statistics utilizing the Business Register while referring to the examples of other countries.

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<sup>v)</sup> EDINET (Electronic Disclosure for Investors' NETwork) is an electronic disclosure system for disclosure documents, such as annual securities reports, based on the Securities and Exchange Law (Act No. 25 of 1948).

<sup>vi)</sup> The annual frame is information of population developed using the Business Register on the basis of a given point of each fiscal year.

## (2) Promotion of use of administrative record information, etc.

### a) Use of administrative record information, etc.

Use of administrative record information, etc. is an important measure from the perspective of alleviating the burden on respondents and efficient production of statistics, and relevant ministries make efforts to alleviate the burden on respondents by decreasing survey items, etc., by checking the existence of utilizable administrative record information, etc.

On the other hand, while the environment surrounding statistical surveys is becoming more severe due to the increasing difficulty in gaining the cooperation of people and enterprises for statistical surveys, the use of administrative record information, etc. is becoming much more important not only from the perspective of alleviating the burden on respondents and efficient production of statistics, but also from the perspective of accurate production of statistics. In addition, in the utilization of administrative record information, etc., it is also necessary to comprehensively consider such matters as the state of information digitization, the expense required for digitization, and the alleviation of the burden on respondents.

Moreover, the Basic Policies set out the reflection of making statistical data more transparent and open in the 2nd Term Master Plan, and as part of such measure it is also necessary to promote the dissemination of statistics produced from administrative record information, etc.

For these reasons, when making plans for implementation of statistical surveys, in principal, relevant ministries should check and preliminarily consider the existence of administrative record information, etc. that can be used to develop relevant statistics. With regard to the status of consideration pertaining to the use of administrative record information in ministries in charge, it shall be confirmed in investigation for the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and deliberations of Fundamental Statistical Surveys by the Statistical Commission.

Moreover, efforts shall continue to be made to alleviate the burden on respondents and to produce statistics accurately and efficiently from the viewpoint of utilizing the provision on requests for retaining agencies to provide administrative record information, etc. based on the provisions of Article 29 (1) of the Statistics Act. In addition, if rational reasons lie behind a difficulty in obtaining administrative record information, etc. from retaining agencies, such as restrictions based on specifications in a law, including the guarantee of confidentiality, as an alternative measure, tables on the pattern of special tabulation shall continue to be produced in principle in accordance with a request from an agency producing statistics based on the situation of digitization, etc. In this case, the agencies producing statistics are responsible for the expenses, etc. in principle.

Furthermore, measures shall be taken to promote making statistical data open and to gain an understanding of the value of utilizing administrative information in the production of statistics. As part of such measures, the utilization of administrative record information, etc. shall be promoted through such means as encouraging the dissemination of non-disclosed statistics produced from administrative record

information, etc., along with regularly comprehending the situation of production and dissemination of the above statistics as well as the state of utilization of administrative record information, etc. Based on international trends, progress shall be made in research about the utilization of big data<sup>vii)</sup> and statistical data by linking them.

b) Use of the Social Security and Tax Number System for statistics

The Act concerning use of a number for identifying specific individuals in administration procedures (Act No. 27 of 2013; hereafter the “Identification Number Act”) was enacted in May 2013 as a social foundation for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the Social Security and Tax System, and of realizing a fair, just and convenient society for the people. The Social Security and Tax Number System will enter full-scale operation in January 2016.

Under the Social Security and Tax Number System, while corporate numbers are in principal open and it is possible for the private sector to use them, personal numbers are restricted to procedures related to the granting of social security, the assessment and collection of tax, disaster prevention, and other matters stipulated by the Identification Number Act, and cannot be used for statistics even after the Act enters into force. Concerning the expansion of the use of personal numbers, it is scheduled to be considered when about three years have passed since the Identification Number Act has entered into force.

For these reasons, from the perspective of accurate and efficient production of statistics, and based on the situation of operation of corporate numbers, consideration shall be made aimed at use in the Business Register, as well as consideration on the use for the production of statistics alongside reexamination of the Identification Number Act concerning expansion of the use of personal numbers.

(3) Promotion of online surveys

In order to produce statistics accurately and efficiently, and to promote the alleviation of the burden on respondents and improvement in convenience, based on the arrival of a highly informative society accompanying the rapid development of ICT, it would be effective to introduce online surveys as a survey method for statistical surveys, and to take measures for the promotion of online replies after such introduction.

Moreover, the Basic Policies urges for the reflection of thoroughness, etc. for online surveys in the 2nd Term Master Plan as part of measures aimed at digital government at the highest international standard.

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<sup>vii)</sup> A large quantity of various data which the progress of ICT has made possible and easy to generate, collect, accumulate, etc.

For these reasons, consideration of the introduction of the online surveys shall be made, in principle, when planning the conduct of a statistical survey. The status of consideration of the introduction of online surveys in relevant ministries shall be confirmed in investigation for the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and deliberations on Fundamental Statistical Surveys by the Statistical Commission.

Moreover, in this consideration, consideration shall be made intensively on the statistical surveys for which online surveys would be effective, along with consideration on schemes to improve the online response rate in the statistical surveys for which online surveys are already introduced.

Furthermore, in promoting online surveys in the Cabinet Office and each ministry, it is necessary for the Cabinet Office and ministries to work together to share information on the situation and issues concerning these surveys, as well as information on efficient and effective practical techniques. Therefore, along with such sharing of information, convenience for respondents must be increased through functional improvement and expansion of the comprehensive information counter for online surveys for official statistics.

In addition, concerning the promotion of online surveys, it is necessary to consider the expected costs of developing and running related programs.

#### (4) Reexamination of statistical standards, etc.

Statistical standards play an important role as the technical standards for securing unity and comprehensiveness when creating official statistics, and it is necessary to accurately set them and reexamine them when needed.

With regard to the statistical standards based on the provisions of Article 28 of the Statistics Act, the following standards have been established the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (MIC Notification No. 405 of 2013), the Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (MIC Notification No. 176 of 2009), the Japan Standard Occupational Classification (MIC Notification No. 555 of 2009), the Statistical Standards Concerning Index Reference Period (MIC Notification No. 112 of 2010) and the Statistical Standards Applying the Seasonal Adjustment Methods (MIC Notification No. 96 of 2011).

The necessity for amendment of these statistical standards shall be considered, from the perspective of continuity, based on changes in socio-economic circumstances, etc., after approximately five years, and necessary actions shall be taken if needed.

On the other hand, although not established as statistical standards, consideration shall be made about the Product Classification, Workers' Classification, etc. from the perspective of contributing to improvement in the compatibility and comparability between statistics and to a more accurate comprehension of economic activity.

The classification used in the tabulation of various statistics, such as age group and scale of business establishment, is set individually according to the purpose of production of each statistics. However, in terms of compatibility and comparability among official statistics, and from the perspective of promoting accurate response to the needs for official statistics, after grasping the present conditions of the classification,

consideration shall be made on what the standard form of the classification should be, also taking into consideration the continuation of statistics. Based on the results of such consideration, ministries that produce statistics shall try to secure the compatibility in related statistics when they improve the classification by gender, by each age, and by region in their statistics.

## 2 Securing and making effective use of statistical resources

### (1) The measures for securing statistical resources

Under the condition of limited fiscal and statistical resources, to meet new needs while ensuring the required quality of statistics, relevant ministries are making efforts for securing statistical resources, along with taking measures for the efficiency and rationalization of operations, such as the reexamination of survey items and the number of respondents.

On the other hand, since it is one of the fundamental duties of the government to provide required statistics as information infrastructure for society, it is necessary to make further progress in the promotion of measures aimed at securing and making effective use of statistical resources. It is also necessary to strengthen the support for the production of new statistics, the planning of statistical survey implementation, etc. in each ministry.

For these reasons, relevant ministries shall systematically develop statistics that appropriately meet the socio-economic changes and social needs, and as the government is responsible for providing official statistics suitable as information infrastructure for society, it is necessary to continue constant efforts for securing and making effective use of statistical resources. In order to support such securing and making effective use of statistical resources in each ministry, the information on the current situation of measures shall continue to be shared.

Moreover, while implementing research which is common to the official statistics by promoting the use and enhancement of the existing organizations, each ministry shall develop a framework to support statistical production and planning, etc.

When ministries conduct cross-ministry Fundamental Statistical Surveys, they shall conduct joint surveys as necessary, and when they produce and provide statistics in response to urgent needs, consideration shall be made about implementing special tabulation, additional survey items in existing statistical surveys, or incidental surveys.

### (2) Functional maintenance of the survey system, coordination between the national government and local public entities

The statistics departments in local public entities are not only playing an important role in the production and dissemination of the Fundamental Statistics, but are also greatly contributing to the improvement of the Fundamental Statistics from the perspective of regions. Moreover, surveys by enumerators have greatly contributed to securing the accuracy of statistical surveys, including the improvement of questionnaire collection rates and accuracy of responses, and the accuracy of the contents of statistics. The maintenance of the functions of the survey system and coordination between each ministry and local public entity are essential.



Based on such situation, as each ministry tries to reduce and standardize the work of local public entities and enumerators, and supports the production of statistics by local public entities, etc., it is making efforts to (1) introduce surveys conducted by the national government directly, (2) review the types of industries covered by the survey, or the survey system, (3) utilize private enterprises' know-how, (4) enhance and support the tabulation by region, (5) secure and train registered enumerators, etc.

However, while the environment surrounding statistical surveys is becoming increasingly severe, in accordance with the decrease in respondents' willingness to cooperate for surveys due to their increased awareness of the protection of personal information and the increase in single-person households, etc., securing enumerators has become difficult, and also the number of personnel in statistics divisions of prefectures and statistical personnel of municipalities is decreasing further.

Regarding the development of Fundamental Statistics, it is necessary for the national government and local public entities to make efforts in cooperation with each other and through the appropriate sharing of roles, under the premise that Fundamental Statistics are to be produced under the responsibility of the national government. It is also necessary for relevant ministries to continue taking measures for enhancement and support of the tabulations classified by region.

For these reasons, in order to promote the functional maintenance of the survey system, while continuing to promote the alleviation and equalization of the work handled by local public entities, relevant ministries shall enhance and support the tabulation classified by region.

Moreover, relevant ministries shall continue to take measures related to securing and training enumerators, and improving their treatment, while cooperating with local public entities and promoting common understanding about the role and importance of enumerators.

Furthermore, with regard to expenses for the commission of affairs for statistical surveys granted to local public entities by the national government, reexaminations on the operation shall be conducted based on the actual condition and opinions of all prefectures.

### **(3) Training and securing human resources, such as statistical personnel**

It is important for personnel in charge to fully exhibit professional competence in the production of Official Statistics, and since it is indispensable to secure and foster highly specialized human resources both in terms of quality and quantity in organizations that produces statistics, each ministry is formulating a policy regarding the enhancement of human resources and a training plan, etc., and promoting the securing of quality and quantity, such as personnel exchanges, enhancement of training, etc.

On the other hand, with regard to the statistical personnel of each ministry, while quantitative securing becomes even more difficult under the current severe situation of administrations, it is much more important to promote qualitative development and improvement.

For these reasons, each ministry shall aim to promote the further fixing of existing multilateral measures by enhancing personnel exchanges or training programs that are

conscious of the securing and fostering of human resources now more than ever. Based on these measures, ministries shall continue to preponderantly take measures which have been proved highly effective.

Also, the training function of the Statistical Research and Training Institute of MIC, playing the important role of fostering human resources, such as the statistical personnel in the Cabinet Office and each ministry, shall be expanded.

#### (4) Preparations for times of disaster occurrence, etc.

When a large-scale disaster occurs, official statistics play an important role, as they are used as data not only for comprehending the state of damage and estimating the effects, but also for formulating a recovery program and evaluating the status of recovery. In each ministry, on the occasion of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, measures such as temporally exempting the affected area from statistical surveys implemented after the earthquake, or changing the statistics used for production of processed statistics were established. In addition, statistics concerning the damage have been announced using the special tables, etc. which utilized the survey results.

On the other hand, in the results of the research conducted by the MIC about the statistics-related measures concerning the Great East Japan Earthquake, some issues were seen from such aspects as the following: (1) the aspect of structures, including the assumption of the statistical resources at the time of disaster and information cooperation among ministries and prefectures, (2) the aspect of conducting surveys, including the securing of the safety of enumerators and (3) the aspect of tabulations and dissemination. It is necessary to take measures aimed at resolving such issues in the future.

For these reasons, while extracting the issues about the responses when a large-scale disaster occurs as preparations for such disaster and deciding response policies, consideration shall be made on the measures which strengthen the awareness and judgment of the persons concerned with statistical surveys regularly, and measures shall be promoted one by one.

#### (5) Utilization of private enterprises

Under the severe financial situation, in order to promote effective use of the limited statistical resources, as well as the alleviation of the burden on local public entities and enumerators, it is important to make effective and appropriate use of private enterprises that have superior know-how and resources.

On the other hand, the ultimate responsibility for the production of official statistics lies with entities producing the statistics, and as for critical statistical surveys that are carried out by the national government, it is necessary for the national government itself to carry out core operations, including the planning of surveys. In particular, regarding the statistical surveys whose decrease in the accuracy of their results will result in large hindrances to the accuracy of the statistics of the national government as a whole and in the management of national politics, it is necessary to consider the possibility of the use of private enterprises carefully and fully.

Moreover, when using private enterprises, on premises such as the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the statistics, the protection of confidentiality by the respondents, the guarantee of reliability, etc., it is necessary to keep in mind private enterprises' implementation ability.

For these reasons, regarding the utilization of private enterprises, further promotion of establishing measures taken so far shall be aimed at, on the common understanding of aiming at the alleviation of the burden of survey operations and increasing the efficiency. At the same time, based on the results of the promotion of the quality assurance activity of statistics, consideration shall be made aiming at introducing the view of a process assurance to the "Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys" (undertaken at a conference among directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of the Cabinet Office and each ministry held on March 31, 2005; revised on April 6, 2012).

### 3 Improvement of the statistical surveys environment

#### (1) Accurate comprehension of statistical needs

Regarding the production and provision of Official Statistics which appropriately respond to changes in socio-economic circumstances, etc., in addition to promoting statistics users' convenience, it is important to comprehend the needs of those who use statistics, etc. and to promote the improvement of Official Statistics. Each ministry is, together with individual measures which have already been implemented, making efforts to comprehend the needs of people who use statistics across ministries by holding opinion-exchange sessions with people who use statistics in the Statistical Commission and by implementing questionnaires concerning the needs for statistics utilizing the e-Stat, etc., and to reexamine statistics and expand the provision of statistical data, etc.

On the other hand, in order to promote the development of statistics and the provision of statistical data responding to changes in socio-economic circumstances, it is necessary to comprehend statistical needs more accurately.

For these reasons, greater invigoration of opinion-exchange sessions with those who use statistics in the Statistical Commission, etc. shall be promoted. Moreover, while improving the contents of questionnaires concerning statistical needs, cooperation shall be strengthened, such as promoting the sharing of information on needs which each ministry comprehends individually.

#### (2) Promotion of statistical quality assurance activity

The quality assurance activity which aims at ensuring and improving the usefulness of official statistics and reliability through the production and provision of official statistics meeting users' needs, improvement of quality reports, and quality evaluation is an important measure when efficiently producing statistics that accurately respond to socio-economic changes. Each ministry has commenced measures concerning the quality indication and evaluation of statistics in charge, based on the "Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Official Statistics" (agreed on at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of the Cabinet Office and each ministry on March 31, 2010; revised on April 8, 2011).

However, the measures of each ministry concerning the quality assurance activity, especially those concerning the quality evaluation, have not sufficiently been able to obtain sufficient results, so it is necessary to strengthen them.

Moreover, the Basic Policies sets out the reflection of more transparent and open statistical data in the formulation of the 2nd Term Master Plan and the aiming at the promotion thereof. As part of that, it is effective to introduce in the quality assurance activity a process assurance of official statistics.

For these reasons, each ministry shall strengthen the measure of a quality assurance activity focusing on quality evaluation, and promote the reexamination of existing statistics and the increase in efficiency of the statistics production method. At the same time, the Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Official Statistics shall be revised aiming at introducing a process assurance.

### (3) Promotion of activities for publicizing and raising awareness concerning statistics, etc.

In order to have accurate information smoothly reported in statistical surveys, it is important to have citizens and enterprises understand accurately how the results of statistical surveys are used by administrative institutions, corporations, individuals, etc., how they are useful, and what kind of influence non-cooperation of statistical surveys has. Each ministry has been making efforts to review its website and to request individual cooperation for surveys based on the "Action Guidelines for Comprehension and Promotion of Citizens for the Statistical Surveys" (agreed on at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of the Cabinet Office and related ministries on March 30, 2010, partially revised on January 31, 2013; hereafter "Action Guidelines").

However, the environment surrounding statistical surveys is becoming severe due to the increased awareness among individuals and enterprises of the protection of information, and the decrease in the willingness of respondents, etc., to cooperate, so enhancement of activities for publicizing and raising awareness is indispensable. Moreover, it is necessary for each ministry to aim at promotion of measures for responding to people who do not cooperate in statistical surveys based on the Action Guidelines.

For these reasons, each ministry shall aim at the promotion of efficient and effective measures, such as attempting exchanges of information on the current situation of measures taken by each ministry, by setting the strengthening of measures as a fundamental policy based on the Action Guidelines. Moreover, responding to people who do not cooperate in statistical surveys shall continue to be considered from a comprehensive perspective.

### (4) Improvement of statistical literacy, etc.

In order to increase people's willingness to cooperate in statistical surveys, at each stage of education, from elementary school education to higher education, statistics

education that emphasizes statistical literacy<sup>xiii)</sup>, as well as statistical ethics<sup>xiv)</sup> is important. Each ministry is making progress in measures such as enhancement, reexamination of a study site within the website of each ministry, as well as promoting enhancement of the contents of teacher training.

On the other hand, at schools, although concern about statistical education is increasing owing to the revision of the Course of Study, teachers are still struggling for suitable concrete teaching methods, and it is necessary to produce practical teaching materials, provide information, enhance training for teachers, etc. Moreover, for university students, working people, etc., in order to deepen their understanding and interest in statistics, it is also necessary to produce and provide micro data<sup>xv)</sup> which can be used widely.

For these reasons, each ministry shall promote practical lectures using statistical data in cooperation with local public entities, as well as produce and provide appropriate teaching materials in cooperation with education-related organizations. Furthermore, progress shall be made in measures such as expansion of the training for teachers, etc. and enhancement of the contents of training according to the needs of education-related people.

Moreover, with regard to “micro data for general use” (tentative name),<sup>xvi)</sup> which can be provided generally, measures towards provision shall be being promoted, and at the same time, measures by ministries shall be promoted through sharing information on the state of measures.

##### (5) Sharing of research-and-development results

In order to promote accurate and efficient production of statistics, each ministry is promoting ongoing measures of research and development, such as cooperating with academic experts who have special knowledge concerning sampling theory, estimation technology, etc.

On the other hand, the results of the research and development in each ministry mainly remain used for reexamination of the statistics or statistical surveys which each ministry conducts, and the information sharing among ministries is not sufficient. Moreover, while survey environments become increasingly severe, regarding research issues utilizable in a cross-ministerial manner, such as the method for handling unanswered matters and the development of a matching technique, it is effective and efficient for each ministry to share the results while promoting research and development according to each individual issue.

For these reasons, with the MIC as the center, constructing a framework to enable the sharing of results of research and development by each ministry, and efforts to promote research and development while sharing the results shall be carried out.

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<sup>xiii)</sup> The ability to understand the usefulness of statistics and use statistical data

<sup>xiv)</sup> The awareness and ethics necessary for understanding the importance of statistics and for cooperating with statistical surveys

<sup>xv)</sup> Data of individual data forms which have not been tabled.

<sup>xvi)</sup> Pseudo micro data produced by a method which does not use questionnaire information directly, e.g. produced from tables, etc.

#### 4 Promotion of effective use of statistical data

##### (1) Provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.

Provision and use<sup>xvii)</sup> of questionnaire information, etc. are the measures whose enhancement was promoted when the Statistics Act underwent a complete revision in 2007 from the perspective of utilizing the questionnaire information collected on account of the burden on citizens more effectively. Each ministry is making progress in measures such as responding to tailor-made tabulations, and production and provision of anonymized data, along with the 1st Term Master Plan.

Moreover, the Basic Policies set out the reflection of more transparent and open statistical data in the formulation of the 2nd Term Master Plan and aiming to promote them. It is required to expand the use more by enhancing services concerning the provision and use of questionnaire information, reexamination of use conditions, etc.

For these reasons, with regard to the provision and use of questionnaire information, etc., after taking into account the security level and the characteristics of the utilization form according to the grade of anonymity of questionnaire information, and the situations of other countries in a comprehensive manner, the following shall be promoted, including adjustments to the legal system. On this occasion, from the viewpoint of effectiveness and convenience, the government as a whole shall promote united action.

- (1) consideration toward the easing of the use conditions in tailor-made tabulations
- (2) arrangement and consideration toward the realization of on-site use<sup>xviii)</sup> including remote access<sup>xix)</sup> in provision of the questionnaire information, and tabulation and analysis<sup>xx)</sup> according to the program sending type, and
- (3) enhancement of services through expansion of the type and year of statistical surveys in production and provision of anonymized data

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<sup>xvii)</sup> A general term specified by the Statistics Act, Chapter 3 (1) Secondary Use of Questionnaire Information (Article 32), (2) Provision of Questionnaire Information (Article 33), (3) tailor-made tabulations (Article 34), and (4) production and provision of anonymized data (Article 35 and Article 36).

<sup>xviii)</sup> Aggregation and analysis of questionnaire information is carried out at locations designated by administrator at administrative organs, etc. using equipment that they designate.

<sup>xix)</sup> Users aggregate and analyze the questionnaire information off-site via a communication line. Such offsite work is placed under the control of administrators at administrative organs, etc. and printing and copying of aggregation results or analysis is not permitted without the permission of the administrator concerned.

<sup>xx)</sup> Users make computer programs for aggregation and analysis while referring to test data. Administrators at administrative organs, etc. run such programs and provide the results to the users.

Regarding the “Statistical Data Archive” (tentative name), consideration for embodiment shall continue and a conclusion shall be reached at an early stage as the foundation of promotion of provision and use of questionnaire information, etc. In addition, appropriate storage of the questionnaire information, etc. by the survey conductor shall be continued thoroughly.

## (2) Promotion of the sharing and provision of statistical data based on using the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics

In each ministry, progress is made in promoting data registration in the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics and in improving and developing the environment for use by simplification of operation and re-examination of the search function, etc. according to the promotion of various kinds of measures based on the “Optimization Plan for Operations and System of Statistical Survey Operations, etc.” (formulated at a liaison meeting among chief information officers (CIO) of each office and ministries on March 31, 2006; finalized on September 7, 2012; hereafter the “Optimization Plan”).

On the other hand, in order to secure statistical usefulness and increase respondents’ understanding and willingness to cooperate, it is further more important to provide statistical data for citizens in a timely manner in a form which can be used easily.

Moreover, the Basic Policies set out the reflection of more transparent and open statistical data in the formulation of the 2nd Term Master Plan and the aiming at the promotion thereof as part of the measure which aims at the most advanced E-government in the world.

For these reasons, each ministry shall promote data sharing among ministries and the provision of useful statistical data to citizens by aiming at further expansion of data registration to the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics.

Regarding the information-dissemination function of the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics, the provision of an API function and the enhancement of statistics GIS shall also be considered along with aiming at improvement based on users’ needs.

## 5 Promotion of international cooperation and international contributions

### (1) Promotion of information provision to international organizations

In various aspects, such as economy and culture, as globalization progresses in which capital and information are exchanged on a global scale across conventional national and area borders, official statistics play an important role, such as providing information required in order to analyze the risk of a global financial and economic crisis.

Japan has (1) participated in international conferences such as those of the United Nations Statistical Commission and OECD, and various expert meetings, contributing to the consideration and establishment of various kinds of international statistical standards and guidelines, (2) participated in international statistical activities, such as an International Comparison Programme (ICP) aiming at performing real-term comparison of the gross domestic product of each country, and (3) cooperated in the exchange of the

statistical information by Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of IMF, etc. The importance of such international statistical activities is increasing.

Also, participation in international conferences and expert meetings, etc. held by international organizations, etc. is an important measure as well from the perspective of development of human resources and strengthening the international capacity of statistical personnel in Japan.

However, these measures are not sufficient, because of the restrictions on statistical resources in Japan, etc., and it is necessary to strengthen them further, not only from the perspective of increasing Japan's presence in international society but also from the perspective of human resource development for statistical personnel in Japan.

There may be room for improvement depending on the field as for Japan's provision of statistical information to international organizations, so it is required to build and enhance the structure for comprehending the overall situation, mainly by MIC, and also required to promote international cooperation, such as active participation in international conferences.

## (2) Support for developing countries, etc.

As for smooth administrative management in state or local administrative institutions, comprehending the condition of the population and industry correctly through statistics is indispensable for making progress. Especially in developing countries, in order to utilize limited resources and assistance effectively, the development of statistical organizations for the variety of policy making, human resource development, etc. is important.

Japan provides support to dispatch the experts under the Project on Improving Official Statistics in Cambodia through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to cooperate in the management of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and to accept trainees from the governments of various countries in Training Institute of Economics, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), the Cabinet Office; however, these measures are not sufficient, because of the limited statistical resources, etc.

For these reasons, each ministry shall cooperate with JICA, etc. and make efforts for positive international contributions in the statistical field, such as the dispatch of statistical experts to statistics-related international organizations, and the acceptance of trainees related to statistics from developing countries and other foreign countries.



#### IV. The Promotion of the 2nd Term Master Plan

##### 1 Effective and efficient implementation of the measures

In order to make sure that the Master Plan is effective, it is essential to continue promoting close coordination among ministries, and appropriately inspecting the progress of measures at an appropriate time.

For this reason, not only further promoting cooperation among ministries through the Official Statistics Master Plan Promotion Committee, but ministries also shall promote measures in a unified manner, by reconstructing a framework of promotion in line with the policy contained in the 2nd Term Master Plan.

Also, based on the provisions of Article 55 (3) of the Statistics Act, the Statistical Commission comprehends the status of implementation of the policy contained in the Master Plan through deliberations on the status of enforcement of the Act every year, and conveys its opinions to relevant ministries as needed. Under the 2nd Term Master Plan, in order to further promote the policy for development of official statistics, the following measures shall be focused on based on Article 55 (3) of the Statistics Act.

The first measure is to systematically confirm the status of revision in line with the requisites for quality evaluation and the status of fulfilling the importance and necessity as Fundamental Statistics (Fundamental Statistical Surveys), focusing on the Fundamental Statistics that have not been submitted to the Statistical Commission, based on changes in the socio-economic situation, and on the establishment, arrangement, integration, etc. of statistics, including the establishment of Economic Structure Statistics, etc.

The second measure is to systematically follow-up on the status of response after a fixed period regarding the “issues from now on” shown in the report of the Statistical Commission’s consultation deliberations. Also, in order to comprehend the present condition of sites where statistical surveys are implemented, members of the Statistical Commission committee, etc., shall accompany enumerators to inspect the circumstances, and the inspection results shall be utilized for the Statistical Commission’s deliberations.

The third measure is to conduct reconsideration about research related to statistical issues which concern various ministries and that were comprehended in deliberations of the status of enforcement of the Statistics Act and in deliberations of individual consultations (reexamination of imputation of missing data, improvement of the estimation concerning the distribution with strong distortions, trends in the measurement of service quality, etc.) and about the policy to strengthen cooperation with the Science Council of Japan and related academic associations, as well as to promote measures.

##### 2 Securing compatibility with various legal plans, etc., and promoting accurate information dissemination

Official statistics are important information as a basis for the people’s rational decision-making and are related to all fields as information infrastructure for society. Therefore, the development of statistics in each field is mentioned as needed in the national government’s various legal plans, etc., from the perspective of promoting evidence-based policy making and improving international comparability. It is necessary to take cooperative measures towards addressing issues related to statistics.

For these reasons, in promoting the 2nd Term Master Plan, measures shall be promoted to contribute to the securing of reliability and objectivity in policies, with consideration given to compatibility with the statistical development in various legal plans, etc., and the various measures in relevant fields.

Since it is essential to obtain the people's understanding and cooperation broadly in developing official statistics, the dissemination of accurate information to the public continuously and the comprehension and reflection of the people's opinions and needs regarding official statistics shall be promoted.

## Appendix: Concrete Measures that Shall Be Established within the Next Five Years

### II. Matters Concerning the Development of Official Statistics

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
1 Development of economy-related statistics (1)	◎ Accuracy of estimates shall be promoted by establishing a method to adjust the estimates from the three aspects of expenditure, production and income within the framework of the Supply-Use Tables.	Cabinet Office (CAO)	Aim for implementation by the end of FY2016.
Development of National Accounts (i) Securing and improving accuracy	◎ In order to improve the accuracy of National Accounts within the framework of the Supply-Use Tables, cooperation shall be established among each of the bureaus and departments that produce National Accounts, Input-Output Tables and Updated Input-Output Tables while striving to share required information and ensure compatibility between them.	CAO, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables	Shall be implemented starting in FY2014.
	◎ Regarding the Supply-Use Tables of the benchmark year of National Accounts, the necessity for and possibility of developing them in a form that is coordinated with Input-Output Tables shall be considered.	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
	○ Regarding the Updated Input-Output Tables, improvement in accuracy shall be aimed at through the advancement of estimation techniques, the development of primary statistics, etc. Moreover, based on the results, the propriety of designating them as Fundamental Statistics shall be considered and a conclusion shall be reached.	METI	Consideration on improving accuracy shall be made from FY2014. Conclusion shall be reached by the next benchmark revision of the Updated Input-Output Tables.
	◎ Research shall be conducted about how to deal with the discrepancy between the concept of export-import in GDP (production approach) estimation and that in the expenditure series, which is one of the causes of statistical discrepancies.	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(i) Securing and improving accuracy	<p>◎ The estimation operating system in National Accounts shall be reconstructed, and a system to ensure that new issues concerning estimation are quickly and appropriately dealt with shall be established.</p> <p>By doing so, the calculation-checking system shall be strengthened.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2016.
(ii) Improvement in international comparability	<p>◎ In order to correspond to 2008SNA as soon as possible, the transition shall be advanced through considering the possibility and pros and cons of revision, and giving priority to revision items.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2016.
	<p>◎ The production of Input-Output Tables by basic price shall be aimed at for the next tables (the tables following the 2011 tables, which are currently being produced), based on the handling of basic data related to indirect tax and subsidies as well as indirect tax in the various primary statistics. Moreover, regarding National Accounts, based on the status of production of the Input-Output Tables, the necessary consideration aimed at the realization in the benchmark revision after the next ones shall also be carried out.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables, CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2015, when the final results of the 2011 Input-Output Tables will be released.
	<p>◎ In order to ensure compatibility between the National Accounts and Input-Output Tables, consideration shall be made about responses to such compatibility and to international trends, such as including in-house software and research and development as fixed capital in Input-Output Tables.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables	Consideration shall be made from FY2015, when the final results of the 2011 Input-Output Tables will be released.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(iii) Development of information provision	<p>◎ While continuing efforts to ensure and improve accuracy in the expenditure approach, quarterly estimations using three approaches, namely the expenditure, production, and income approaches, shall be developed with the aim of releasing preliminary reports of preliminary estimations as a reference series for the time being. In these estimations, efforts shall be made to increase consistency among the three estimation approaches, and the utilization of administrative record information, etc. shall be also considered.</p>	CAO	The release of the reference series shall be aimed at as soon as possible after the benchmark revision in FY2016.
	<p>◎ Provision of figures for long-term series shall be advanced, based on users' requests.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented as soon as possible after the benchmark revision in FY2016.
	<p>○ Support for local public entities shall be strengthened, toward the enhancement of Regional Accounts, including information provision.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(iv) Collaboration strengthening with primary statistics, etc.	<p>◎ The production structure and intermediate input structure in Input-Output Tables and National Accounts shall be comprehended more accurately through the utilization of the results of Economic Census for Business Activity.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables, CAO	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2015 for Input-Output Tables. Shall be implemented by the end of FY2016 for National Accounts.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(iv) Collaboration strengthening with primary statistics, etc.	◎ The usefulness and necessity of the following types of development shall continue to be studied: (1) development of basic statistics which contribute to the comprehension of more detailed accounting items, such as the structure of intermediate input in the service industries, (2) development of basic statistics for the purpose of estimating inventory such as that in wholesale and retail trade, and (3) development of basic statistics which contribute to the comprehension of individual proprietorship activity, etc.	CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	◎ In order to enable sectional distribution according to the economic possession principle of financial leases, the usefulness and the necessity of development of basic statistics shall be arranged, and estimation methods shall be considered based on the status of development of basic statistics.	CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	◎ In order to comprehend the output of the construction industry more accurately, the estimation technique shall be reviewed radically and a system to utilize and estimate construction statistics on the basis of progress shall be established.	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
	◎ In order to ensure accuracy in the quarterly estimation of expenditure and implement the quarterly estimation using the production approach mentioned above in 1 (1) (iii), consideration shall be made about securing useful basic information, focusing on the Monthly Survey on Service Industries.	CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(iv) Collaboration strengthening with primary statistics, etc.	<p>◎ Consideration shall be made on the estimation of the dividing ratio by product in the commodity flow approach to estimate supply and demand by product, how the converter to change the unit of enterprise to the unit of establishment should be, and the development of basic information for the purpose of comprehending labor productivity and the total-factor-productivity index.</p>	CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	<p>◎ A meeting for discussion and information-sharing shall be set for strengthening collaboration among National Accounts, Input-Output Tables, and primary statistics, including matters related to the development of basic statistics above in 1 (1). Promotion shall be aimed at bearing in mind priority and the time axes.</p>	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), CAO, ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables, and ministries that produce primary statistics	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(2) Systematic development of industrial related statistics with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis	<p>◎ In order to smoothly implement the Economic Census for Business Activity in 2016 and improve the accuracy of the results, revision of the plan of the survey shall be made, including reducing the burden on respondents, based on the fact that the environment surrounding statistical surveys is becoming more severe.</p>	MIC and METI	Conclusion shall be reached by the time plans are made for the 2016 survey.
(i) Development of Economic Structure Statistics	<p>○ Consideration shall be made on how the statistical survey for development of information of population in the interim years between the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity and the 2021 Census should be, based on the status of preparation of the Business Register.</p>	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.

(ii) Construction of the new framework with the Economic Structure Statistics as the axis	○ Based on the results of the above-mentioned consideration, the framework on what the survey dates should be including those of related large-scale statistical research in the interim year of Economic Census for Business Activity and for comprehending the gross turnover, etc. shall be considered.	MIC and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
	○ Also based on the results of the above-mentioned consideration, consideration shall be made toward the construction of a new framework for the division of roles, etc. among the Economic Census for Business Activity and the related large-scale statistical survey, and a conclusion shall be reached.	MIC and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	◎ Regarding agricultural and forestry management in the form of corporations in the 2015 Census of Agriculture and Forestry, research shall be carried out aiming at producing statistics for the purpose of comprehending and analyzing the status of new entries into agriculture from other industries and the relationship between enterprises not engaged in agriculture or forestry and agricultural and forestry industries, etc. by transmitting data from the Economic Census for Business Activity.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)	Shall be implemented from FY2016.
	○ Regarding the formulation of product classifications, consideration shall be advanced step by step based on the characteristics of goods and services.	MIC and relevant ministries	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	○ Regarding the handling of consumption tax related to the compilation of sales data, etc. (adjusting the inclusion/exclusion of consumption tax), a meeting for consideration shall be prepared and a conclusion shall be reached at an early stage.	MIC and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity.



Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Development of statistics concerning service industry	○ Regarding the Monthly Survey on Service Industries, based on the status of its utilization, etc. in the National Accounts, etc., designation as the Fundamental Statistics shall be considered as promptly as possible and a conclusion shall be reached.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached as promptly as possible.
	○ Regarding the Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity, further improvement in statistical usefulness, such as accuracy and improvement in convenience, shall be aimed at towards the next benchmark revision. Based on the results, the propriety of designation as Fundamental Statistics shall be considered and a conclusion shall be reached.	METI	Conclusion shall be reached by the time of the next base revision.
	○ As cross-sectional development of statistics concerning service industries, research shall be advanced about how the statistics that comprehend the structure of value-added should be, in cooperation with relevant ministries.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(4) Development of statistics concerning corporate activities	○ After arranging the items which should be comprehended in common by various statistical surveys on corporate activity, consideration shall be carried out on the production and provision of statistics that comprehend corporate activities on a cross-industry basis by utilizing the Business Register.	MIC and relevant ministries	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	○ Regarding the Basic Survey on the Information and Communications Industry, a conclusion shall be reached on the designation as Fundamental Statistics, based on the status of consideration on the production and provision of statistics that comprehend corporate activity in a cross-industry manner.	MIC and METI	Based on the above-mentioned consideration, conclusion shall be reached as early as possible.
	○ Regarding dealings within the same company in statistical surveys for establishments, the possibility of comprehending it shall be considered, taking the burden on respondents into consideration.	MIC, METI, and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of statistics concerning corporate activities	◎ The results of the 2012 Economic Census for Business Activity shall be aggregated based on the information about company groups comprehended by the 2009 Economic Census for Business Frame, and a study on statistics about company groups shall be conducted.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Based on progress made in comprehending enterprise groups in the Business Register, consideration shall be made to clarify the group activity of pure holding companies together with the results of the Survey on Pure Holding Companies.	METI	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2017.
	◎ Consideration shall be made on revising the sample selection method for companies whose capital is from 10 to 20 million yen (stratification by sales, etc.) in the Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by quarter.	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
(5) Development of statistics corresponding to globalization of economic activity	○ Consideration shall continue to be made on whether the production of new statistics concerning the characteristics of companies conducting import and export (foreign funding ratio, etc.) is possible, by matching the business information of the Business Register with that of Trade Statistics, from the viewpoint of whether the information recorded on both databases can be connected, whether smooth implementation of the original administration procedure would be inhibited, and whether the information about individual firms would be kept confidential.	MOF	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
	○ Since Trade Statistics are produced using methods other than statistical survey, the propriety of the designation as Fundamental Statistics shall continue to be considered, while taking into account trade statistics' characteristics, and also considering the enhancement of information provided to the public, and the viewpoint of whether it is compatible with the demand for the original business.	MOF	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(5) Development of statistics corresponding to globalization of economic activity	○ Further improvement and increasing the accuracy of the Survey of Overseas Business Activities shall be performed. Also, the propriety of the designation as Fundamental Statistics shall be considered.	METI	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
	○ Necessary measures shall be considered under cooperation with relevant ministries, etc. for making the data concerning general government operations, general government gross debt, financial soundness indicators, etc. quarterly.	MOF, MIC, CAO, Financial Services Agency (FSA), Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	○ As part of the efforts above, in cooperation with the ministry in charge of Budgetary Statistics, consideration shall be made on the comprehension of general government operations on a quarterly basis and of the estimation method on the accrual basis.	CAO	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
2 Development of economic statistics according to field (1) Development of statistics related to the environment	○ Measures shall be taken for further improvement of statistical data about greenhouse gas emission and absorption, such as verification toward the full implementation of the statistical survey required to comprehend the actual carbon-dioxide emissions from homes.	Ministry of the Environment (MOE)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Further consideration toward improvement in the accuracy of statistics about waste, etc. and the speeding up of dissemination shall be made.	MOE	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	○ In the production of the 2011 Input-Output Tables for environmental analysis, in cooperation with relevant ministries, consideration shall be made on ways to solve issues such as how to comprehend the input amounts by section, etc., the accuracy of which was insufficient in the 2005 Tables.	MOE	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2017.
	○ Regarding the Structural Survey of Energy Consumption, toward inclusion in total energy statistics, the elaboration of data shall continue to be attained while finding solutions for problems and issues that were clarified by consideration performed so far.	Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(1) Development of statistics related to the environment	○ Based on the above-mentioned consideration, systematic development of statistics about energy shall be performed, and the range of Fundamental Statistics shall be considered.	ANRE	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2017.
(2) Development of statistics related to tourism	○ Regarding TSA, while continuing to obtain cooperation from CAO, the enhancement shall be aimed at by further increasing accuracy and producing tables that are not yet developed, based on the experience, etc. toward the dissemination of tables in FY2011.	Japan Tourism Agency (JTA)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Regarding Statistics on Inbound Tourists by Prefecture, improvement shall be considered, aiming at increasing accuracy by verification of the present estimation method. Moreover, so that each prefecture may continue statistics development, analysis examples, etc. which lead to utilization shall be shown and improvement of the tourism-related statistics of the area shall be supported.	JTA	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Regarding the Regional Tourism Economic Survey, the solutions to problems uncovered upon survey implementation and its utilization based on the usefulness of the survey results shall be considered. A conclusion shall be reached at an early stage about the propriety of implementing the next survey in FY2016, etc.	JTA	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2014.
	○ Regarding existing tourism-related statistics, such as the Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel and the Travel and Tourism Consumption Trend Survey, measures shall be taken to improve their accuracy.	JTA	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Development of statistics related to tourism	○ Concerning the Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel and the Travel and Tourism Consumption Trend Survey, based on the above-mentioned consideration, after taking account of compatibility with the Regional Tourism Economic Survey and international standards, systematic development of tourism-related statistics towards the designation as Fundamental Statistics shall be considered, and a conclusion shall be reached.	JTA	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
(3) Development of statistics related to transport	◎ In order to conduct a cross-mode evaluation of the increase in the efficiency of physical distribution, transportation freight classification by articles shall be unified and the transport according to items shall be comprehended.	MLIT	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2016.
	◎ Regarding the development of basic statistics related to the environment, efforts shall be made to improve the accuracy of statistics which comprehend the fuel consumption of the coastal marine service business and automobiles, in cooperation with relevant ministries.	MLIT	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2016.
	◎ In order to comprehensively utilize the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport, systematic development including the utilization of other transportation statistics and administrative record information shall be conducted along with the comprehending of load factors (carry efficiency, ratio of actual driving distance, etc.) in addition to transport.	MLIT	Conclusion to the view on systematic development shall be reached by the end of FY2016.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of statistics related to construction and real estate	○ Regarding building renovation and renewal, comprehension of the amount of investment with the aim of reflection in the Integrated Statistics on Construction Works and National Accounts, as well as the amount of investment for each type of construction in order to contribute to appropriate promotion of housing policies, etc. shall be aimed at. In addition, arrangements shall be made for handling overlapping with the portion of the amount of investment in building renovation and renewal comprehended by Building Starts statistics, etc.	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
	○ In order to advance systematic development centered on the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings carried out every five years, after arranging the necessity of comprehending the flow of land acquisition in interim years continuously, etc., consideration shall be given to structural comprehension of information on the flow and stocks, and a conclusion shall be reached.	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the 2018 Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings.
	○ The way to ascertain the overall status of possession and use of land in Japan, including those of households and the public sector in Japan, shall be verified, based on the results of the 2013 Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings, etc.	MLIT	Shall be implemented from FY2015.
3 Development of statistics related to population and society, and labor	◎ Efforts shall be made for earlier dissemination of social security expense statistics, and the cross tabulation of transfers between sectors based on an ILO standard, and the subdivision of tabulation items.	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(1) Development of comprehensive statistics about social security	○ Regarding the statistics relevant to medical treatment, welfare, and care, in order to aim at improvement in statistical convenience, usefulness, etc., the perspective of the statistical systems in these fields shall be arranged and publicized.	MHLW	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Development of statistics corresponding to the depopulating society and work life balance	◎ Regarding the Population Census, based on advances made in ICT and the population aging, the scope of the on-line survey shall be expanded to cover the whole of Japan, and reviews of survey methods, including support for filling in questionnaires considering the characteristics of respondents, shall be advanced. In addition, efforts shall be made for earlier dissemination of survey results.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the 2015 Census.
	○ Regarding the designation of Population Estimates as Fundamental Statistics, progress shall be made in consideration of new estimation methods concerning the foreign population related to movement across prefectures, and a conclusion shall be reached, aiming for the improvement of aggregation.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
	◎ The contents of the "Guidelines for Harmonizing Time Use Surveys" by The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) shall be closely observed and utilized in the consideration of the plan of the Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities (Fundamental Statistical Surveys).	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the 2016 survey.
	◎ In the results of the survey using the income questionnaire and savings questionnaire of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (Fundamental Statistical Surveys), a test survey, etc. shall be carried out regarding the expansion of sample size so that the tabulation by prefectures may become possible, and consideration shall be made based on the results.	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the 2016 survey.
	○ Taking into consideration that the samples of the Longitudinal Survey of Babies in the 21st Century (2001 Cohort) have become junior high school students in FY2013, consideration shall be made on the direction and contents of future surveys, including adjustment with relevant ministries.	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Development of statistics corresponding to the depopulating society and work life balance	○ In the surveys with tabulation by age group, after considering the accuracy of results and the burden on respondents, etc., consideration on the implementation of tabulation by each age and on the review of the classification of ages, etc. shall be made, and the enforcement of statistical data shall be aimed at beginning with possible matters.	Ministries that implement each survey	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(3) Development of statistics that respond to changes in the situation surrounding education, etc.	○ Regarding the Statistics on Student Guidance, measures for improvement shall be continuously enhanced, such as setting standards for securing objectivity and comparability.	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Regarding the Survey of Household Expenditure on Education per Student, after taking the burden on respondents into consideration, enhancement of survey content towards more accurate comprehension of household expenditure on education, etc. shall be planned.	MEXT	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Since there are many issues, such as securing a budget and the implementation system, etc., the implementation of statistics that enable accurate comprehension of overall life course from school education to employment shall be considered towards realization including cooperation with existing surveys.	MEXT	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
	◎ Concerning Social Education Survey, the development of statistics including new survey contents, such as the utilization/management situation of institutions, shall be considered, based on the results of the deliberation of the Central Council for Education about how the board-of-education system should be, etc.	MEXT	Conclusion shall be reached by the time when plans are to be made for the next survey (schedule in FY2015).



Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of labor statistics that correspond to changes in corporate activities and diversification in the ways of working, etc.	○ From the viewpoint of comprehending changes in the employment status within the same company more accurately, the number of such changes shall be estimated by matching the job appellation and the name of the establishment in the current month and the previous month in the Labour Force Survey (Fundamental Statistical Surveys), and the propriety of the dissemination shall be considered based on verification and comparison with the results of other surveys and the accuracy of results.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2014.
	○ Regarding changes in the definition of unemployed people, etc. and the production and provision of a new index to complement the unemployment rate, after considering the results of existing research and implementation of pilot surveys, based on the reexamination of international standards related to employment, unemployment, etc., and the status of consideration for the future practical manual in ILO, efforts shall be made for statistical production and provision corresponding as much as possible to the international standards, while noting the viewpoint of time-series comparison.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of labor statistics that correspond to changes in corporate activities and diversification in the ways of working, etc.	○ Regarding the classification of labor, based on the proposal submitted by MHLW and the results of the verification MHLW will summarize by the end of FY2013, upon occasions for information sharing and consideration across ministries, the points of verification and consideration shall be arranged, and verification shall be conducted on the possibility of conducting surveys as well as on the effects, etc. in surveys ministries are in charge of. Based on the results, a conclusion on the details of reexamination across ministries shall be reached, and reexamination of the surveys shall be implemented one by one.	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

(Note) In the “Concrete measures, policies, etc.” column, ◎ indicates matters concerning Fundamental Statistics, and ○ indicates matters concerning other official statistics.

### III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
1 Streamlining of statistics production, and alleviating the burden on respondents (1) Development and utilization of the Business Register	○ Effective and efficient development of information of population shall be promoted after considering the way to routinely check changes in business organization structure by using new administrative record information, etc. and referring to companies directly, etc. In doing so, efforts shall be made for personnel training, organization development, etc.	MIC	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2014.
	○ The statistics which comprehend the condition of establishments and enterprises in Japan, and statistics focused on the situation of changes in establishments and enterprises as well as in the growth and decline of industries, etc. shall be produced, using the Business Register. Moreover, research shall be promoted about the use of geographic information.	MIC	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2014.
(2) Promotion of use of administrative record information, etc. (a) Use of administrative record information etc.	○ In cooperation with each ministry, a survey on the use of administrative record information for production of statistics, etc. shall be developed and regularly carried out. The status of production and dissemination of statistics from administrative record information shall be published on the website. Ministries which produce statistics from administrative record information shall disseminate the statistics on their websites, etc., unless there are rational reasons.	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(a) Use of administrative record information, etc.	<p>○ Information on the use of administrative record information, etc. for statistics shall be shared among ministries. Also issues arising during the use of administrative records, etc. shall be sorted out and measures for solutions shall be considered in cooperation with other ministries.</p> <p>Moreover, regarding the possibility of using taxation data by special tabulation, information shall be shared among ministries about the verification results of the possibility to use the figures by special tabulation on economic statistics which was produced by MOF and METI for limited areas and industry types. Then, based on the verification result, relevant ministries shall consider their capacity for utilization in their production of statistics.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(b) Use of the Social Security and Tax Number System for statistics	<p>○ Regarding corporation numbers, based on the situation of their operation and management, consideration shall be made aiming at the use in the Business Register.</p> <p>Moreover, use of the corporation numbers in statistical surveys for companies shall be considered, and that information shall be shared.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	<p>○ Regarding personal numbers, their use for statistics shall be considered alongside reexamination of the Identification Number Act concerning expansion of the use of personal numbers.</p>	Relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
(3) Promotion of online surveys	<p>○ Prior consideration shall be made about the introduction of the online surveys for those not introduced when planning the conduct of statistical surveys, and about schemes to improve the online response rate in the statistical surveys for those already introduced.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Promotion of online surveys	○ In order to promote online surveys, a place to share information on the status of introduction and issues of online surveys, etc. shall be created in cooperation with other ministries, and measures of each ministry shall be supported.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ Consideration shall be made to improve and expand the functions of the Portal Site of online surveys for official statistics, and to use mobile devices in addition to PCs in order to deal with enhancing current ICT.	MIC and each ministry	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
(4) Reexamination of statistical standards, etc.	○ Consideration shall be made about what the standard form of the classification should be, after grasping the present condition of that used in the tabulation (age or establishment scale) mainly for Fundamental Statistics, in cooperation with other ministries.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2017.
2 Securing and making effective use of statistical resources (1) The measures for securing statistical resources	○ Research on the production methodology and use of statistics which are common to official statistics shall be conducted. Regarding the Statistical Research and Training Institute, MIC, improvement of its research capacity and development of its research function shall be carried out to support statistical production and planning of each ministry. Moreover, with the institute as the core, the production of statistics to meet the needs of each ministry and support for creating survey conduct plans shall be provided, in cooperation with the National Statistics Center (incorporated administrative agency).	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2015.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(1) The measures for securing statistical resources	<p>○ While securing the reliability of statistics, efforts shall be made to secure resources for the National Statistics Center, which is expected to play a central role in providing and using questionnaire information, etc. as well as strengthening the information provision function, etc. through the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics.</p> <p>In addition, from the viewpoint of supporting each ministry, among the measures such as provision and utilization of questionnaire information, strengthening the reporting function through the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics (the production of Public-Use Microdata (tentative name), on-site use of questionnaire information, data registration for providing data using the API function, etc.) in which each ministry is involved, requires technical skills and expert knowledge, so when it is effective and efficient to carry out consideration and implementation across the whole government, measures shall be taken to enable the maximum use of the functions of the National Statistics Center.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(2) Functional maintenance of the survey system, coordination between the national government and local public entities	<p>○ Ongoing efforts shall be continued to alleviate the administrative burden on local public entities and to equalize their burden from the mid- to long-term viewpoint, such as by considering suitable and efficient survey techniques that take the character of respondents into consideration. Also, tabulation by area shall be improved and supported based on the needs of local public entities.</p>	Relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Functional maintenance of the survey system, coordination between the national government and local public entities	○ Expenses for the commission of affairs for statistical surveys granted to local public entities by the national government shall be considered towards the revision of the coverage reflecting the status quo, considering results of verification tests and the opinions of prefectures.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
(3) Training and securing human resources, such as statistical personnel	○ Training contents for statistics personnel shall be revised and improved based on the needs and evaluation of training organizations and participants. The training capacity and functions for statistical personnel shall be expanded, through such means as actively responding to requests from local public entities, etc. to dispatch lecturers, supporting research plans in each ministry, etc., and fostering lecturers for statistics training, etc.	MIC	Shall be implemented step by step from FY2014.
(4) Preparations for times of disaster occurrence, etc.	○ A place to consider responses for large-scale disasters shall be set up, and creating concrete action plans in each ministry shall be promoted based on the code of conduct which shall be made after sorting out issues concerning each survey and those across ministries. Upon doing so, it shall be also considered on how questionnaire information should be provided at a time of a large-scale disaster. Moreover, policies for fostering the decision making skills and self-awareness of people related to statistical research in everyday life shall also be considered. The sharing of such knowledge shall be ensured when implementing a statistical survey, or at the training, etc. for local public entity members and enumerators.	MIC and each ministry	Response policies shall be decided by the end of FY2015, and be carried out one by one from FY2016.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(5) Utilization of private enterprises	○ The views of a process assurance shall be considered for introduction in “Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys,” based on the implementing status of the process guarantee in “Guidelines Concerning Quality Assurance of Official Statistics,” in order to use private enterprises more appropriately by improving instructions for entrusted private enterprises.	MIC and each ministry	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.
3 Improvement of the statistical survey environment (1) Accurate comprehension of statistical needs	○ Regarding opinion-exchange sessions with those who use statistics, etc. in the Statistical Commission, expansion of targets shall be made to include respondents, local public entities, and ministries’ policy departments. Also, greater invigoration of the sessions shall be aimed at through using the in-depth results of consideration for deliberations, etc. on the development and improvement of statistics across ministries.	CAO (Statistical Commission)	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	○ The contents of questionnaires concerning statistical needs, etc. shall be improved, considering the way to increase convenience for respondents, etc. Moreover, cooperation among ministries shall be strengthened, by their sharing of information on the statistical needs upon the improvement and provision of their statistics.	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
(2) Promotion of statistical quality assurance activity	○ Measures for the promotion of planned self-evaluation and publishing of the results, etc. shall be strengthened by sharing information about the status of implementing the measures related to statistical quality assurance activities, and their efficient and effective practices, etc.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.



Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Promotion of statistical quality assurance activity	○ With reference to international trends and the findings of related academic research, etc., the Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Official Statistics shall be revised, aiming at introducing process assurance.	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2015.
(3) Promotion of activities for publicizing and raising awareness concerning statistics, etc.	○ With reference to “View concerning dealing with acts that hinder smooth implementation of statistical research,” concrete measures based on the action agenda shall be taken, after verifying the status of each ministry’s implementation of statistical surveys, while sharing information with each ministry and local public entity.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2014.
	○ Information sharing shall be made concerning efficient and effective practices, etc. in developing public relations and public awareness made by each ministry, such as an intensive campaign to promote the submission of questionnaires and detailed awareness-raising activities for industries groups. Moreover, response to people who do not cooperate in statistical surveys shall be considered from a comprehensive perspective.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Improvement of statistical literacy, etc.	<p>○ Training contents shall be improved so that teachers and other training participants can master methods to raise the statistical literacy of pupils and students in cooperation with MEXT, academic societies and education-related people, etc. Expansion of training opportunities shall be also made by holding training in rural areas. Moreover, a curriculum and supplementary learning materials shall be developed and produced in cooperation with academic societies and education-related organizations, etc. Furthermore, support for promoting the introduction of workshop-style lessons shall be offered, by using above-mentioned training, curriculums and supplementary learning materials.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2014.
	<p>○ Regarding the training contents of the Statistical Research and Training Institute, improvement shall be aimed at so that it meets the needs of education-related people, such as the way to use and search for statistical data.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	<p>○ Support shall be provided for introducing workshop-style lessons that effectively use human resources, including personnel alumni and people with expert knowledge related to statistics in cooperation with local public entities, etc.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	<p>○ The provision of "Public-Use Microdata" (tentative name), which can be used by a wide range of people, shall be started promptly, after considering the production of such data and comprehending user needs.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2015.
(5) Sharing of research-and-development results	<p>○ A framework to enable the sharing of results of research and development shall be built in cooperation with ministries, and the research and development of each ministry shall be supported.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
<p>4 Promotion of effective use of statistical data (1) Provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.</p>	<p>○ Regarding tailor-made tabulations, consideration shall be made to ease use conditions. Moreover, consideration towards realization of on-demand tabulation, such as the technical validation, etc., shall be made. Furthermore, types and years, etc. of statistical surveys for provision shall added, considering users' needs.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	<p>○ Regarding the provision of questionnaire information, with the viewpoint of making absolutely sure of security, consideration shall be made, including the arrangement of division of roles, toward the realization of a new method of use, such as on-site use including remote access and tabulation and analysis according to the way the computer program is sent.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	<p>○ Regarding the production and provision of anonymized data, the addition of types and years to the data, etc. shall be made, considering users' needs, securing of anonymity, and improvement in usefulness.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
	<p>○ Simplification of the procedure shall be considered in adding new annual data to anonymized data.</p>	CAO (Statistical Commission), MIC	Consideration shall be made from FY2014.
	<p>○ Regarding the development of "Statistical Data Archive" (tentative name), concrete consideration shall be advanced toward expanding the maintenance of necessary data for utilizing questionnaire information, etc. (metadata), while limiting the range of the applicable data to questionnaire information, etc. other than original questionnaire slips. Regarding the archive's name, changes shall be considered so that its purpose can be clearer.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2016.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Promotion of the sharing and provision of statistical data based on using the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics	○ Promotion of statistical data registration shall be aimed at by considering the simplification and support of the registration work of statistical data for the statistical information database of the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.
System for Official Statistics	○ Regarding the improvement of information dissemination function by e-Stat of the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics, the level of users' satisfaction shall be grasped and used in the consideration of improving the convenience of users. At the same time, advanced use of statistical data shall be considered such as provision of an API function and enhancement of statistics GIS, etc.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2015.
5 Promotion of international cooperation and international contributions	○ Efforts shall be made, in cooperation with other ministries, to improve the provision of statistical information to international organizations by building the structure for comprehending the overall situation.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2014.

(Note) “III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics” are common matters among official statistics in general, including Fundamental Statistics.