

PREFACE

This book is the 56th edition of “STATISTICAL NOTES OF JAPAN.” It is published to introduce Japan’s recent statistical works (activities) to statisticians all over the world.

The theme of the book is “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics.”

In order to develop official statistics in Japan more systematically and efficiently, thereby improving the convenience of the public, the new Statistics Act, which was fully revised 60 years after the original act was made, was fully enforced in April 2009. Along with the enforcement, the Government of Japan formulated the “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” (hereafter the “1st Term Master Plan”) as a Cabinet Decision in March 2009, with the aim of having official statistics completely fulfill their role as the information base of society.

The Government has developed various measures in line with the 1st Term Master Plan. Now, five years after the Plan was formulated, significant changes in the socio-economic situation surrounding statistics have occurred, including the beginning of full-scale population decline, economic policies aimed at ending deflation, and institutional changes by deregulation. Based on such situation, the new “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” (hereafter the “2nd Term Master Plan”), which starts in FY2014, was recently decided by the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) shall, in cooperation with other ministries, promote the 2nd Term Master Plan steadily, and proceed with the measures toward the systematic and efficient development of Official Statistics and secure the usefulness of Official Statistics.

We sincerely hope that this book will be helpful for a better understanding of statistical systems in Japan and cooperation in international statistical communities.

Editor

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