

PREFACE

This is the fifty-fourth edition of “Statistical Notes of Japan,” a series of which has been briefing statistical activities in Japan by highlighting recent topics of common interests among statisticians of all over the world.

The present edition provides the whole sentences of the Statistics Act, thoroughly revised and promulgated in May 2007 for the first time after sixty years since its enforcement, with reports by two committees whose recommendations had led to the revision of the Act. It also includes the Basic Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics specifying basic policies for measures concerning the development of official statistics in the next five years based on the Act, established and approved by the Cabinet in March 2009, and propelled since the beginning of FY2009.

Expressing our deepest gratitude to those who contributed to the above-mentioned reform of official statistics, we will be pleased if this publication is of any help to deepen understanding of the official statistics in Japan and promote international cooperation in statistical areas.

Editor

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