

Statistics Council No.12
November 21st, 1997

To: Sadatoshi Ozato
Director-General, MCA

Toshiyuki Mizoguchi
Chairman, Statistics Council

Report to Inquiry No. 249
Re: Revision of Japan Standard Occupational Classification

Eleven years have passed since the last partial revision of Japan Standard Occupational Classification in June 1986, and the existing Occupational Classification now needs to be revised in line with changes in occupational structure accompanying shifts in socio-economic trends in the meantime.

This Council, having carefully examined all aspects of the existing Occupational Classification with due consideration for the continuity of statistics, has reached the conclusion that it would be appropriate to revise the Classification as detailed in the attachments.

1 Main points for revision

- (1) To more accurately grasp changes in occupational structure accompanying shifts in socio-economic trends, we have added certain groups while removing others, in view of increases or decreases in the numbers employed in a particular profession, improved capacity for international comparison, etc. We have also changed some of the terminology used (including illustrations of specific occupations) since it has become inappropriate due to changes in social convention.
- (2) From the perspective of promoting gender equality in social participation, we have revised class titles and illustrations of specific occupations under the basic policy of in principle, avoiding the use of words that express gender, indicating titles used for both genders, only in cases when it is difficult to indicate such titles without using words that express gender, and only when the names of those occupations are socially recognized as general titles.

2 Tasks for the future

We expect the pace of change in socio-economic trends in Japan to accelerate still further and employment formats to become increasingly diverse in future. Therefore, as well as striving to make timely and appropriate revisions to the Japan Standard Occupational Classification, we will need to take the following measures to take account of the advance of IT and international comparison in our provision of Japan Standard Occupational Classification, thereby enhancing the use thereof.

- (1) We expect that the advance of IT, changes in consumption behavior, and other factors will continue to exert a major impact on occupational structure in future, and will therefore strive to gather information on occupations on a continuous basis. We will also research the standardization of classification with respect to issues such as

“employment status”, which is just as important as “occupations” when ascertaining the employment formats of individuals.

- (2) With the progressive diversification and globalization of corporate activity, occupations that require legal, financial or other specialist knowledge within companies are increasing in importance. We will therefore conduct survey research on the classification of employees in such specialist administrative occupations within companies.
- (3) To enhance the convenience of this Occupational Classification, we will draw up tables for cross-reference with the “International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)” set as standard international classifications by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- (4) In line with the government’s policy for promoting IT in the administration (“Basic Plan for Promotion of IT in the Administration” (Cabinet Decision of December 25th, 1994)), we will promote the electronic provision of this Occupational Classification through the Internet and other media.