

Committee on Statistics, Sixth Session

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Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:

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1. We recognize that the proposed declaration strengthens investment in and dissemination of statistics in Asia and the Pacific region. Therefore, the Government of Japan supports the declaration as a rational and effective way to address the 2030 agenda.
2. In 2016, the Government of Japan has established a Cabinet body, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all ministers, to promote realizing a sustainable society with "No one left behind".
3. In Japan, we are facing serious concerns regarding the aging of the population and low birth rate, as well as a severe financial situation. To cope with such challenges, it is necessary to strengthen statistics to support evidence-based policy making. In January 2017, "Council for Promotion of Statistic Reform", headed by Chief Cabinet Secretary, was created and the council decided to coordinate the general direction of the statistics reform and review its progress.
4. In the "Final report of Council for Promotion of Statistic Reform", submitted in May 2017, the government affirmed the need to promote both evidence-based policymaking and statistics reform in an integrated manner like the two wheels on an axle. The Final Report guides unprecedented reform, and recommend to draw up a road map of the reform and review of statistical legislation.
5. Based on the Final Report, in March 2018, a Cabinet Decision was made on the road map, that is, Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics, over the next five years. In the Master Plan, regular and cross-cutting comprehension of statistical needs including EBPM, and recruit and development of statistics human resources were included. In addition, the necessary revision of the Statistics Act was conducted, and it will be fully enforced by the end of May 2019.
6. In this way, we are going to promote the statistical reform in the whole government in cooperation with the government's efforts of EBPM.
7. Also, in order to achieve SDGs, it is important to properly monitor the progress, leading to follow-up and review, and for that purpose it is necessary to improve the capacity building of each country's statistical department staff.
8. From the perspective that human resource development is the most fundamental and important element for strengthening the national statistical systems, the Government of Japan has emphasized statistical trainings conducted by SIAP, which is a regional institution of ESCAP, and has provided technical cooperation and financial support to SIAP since it was established in Japan in 1970, almost half a century ago.
9. SIAP has conducted intensive training programmes for more than 18,000 statisticians until now and its achievements are highly appreciated in the ESCAP region as well as the entire world. We will continue to its support to SIAP for statistical capacity building of member countries.
- 10 We would like each country to take an advantage of the training opportunities provided by SIAP to build the capacity of statistical officers, and to support for strengthening SIAP's training capacity.
- 11 We would like to continue to support for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.