



(Check Against Delivery)

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At the Forty-Ninth Session of the United Nations Commission  
on Population and Development  
April 2016

Madame Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to Your Excellency, Ambassador Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota of Zambia, and the other distinguished members of the Bureau for the successful organization of the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).

The theme of this year's CPD: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda" is both timely and important for all the member countries, including Japan. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pose various challenges, and to meet these to challenges an evidence based approach is needed now more than ever.

In Japan, the latest population census was conducted in 2015. During that process, some 19 million households, representing 37% of all the households, answered the census questionnaire by internet. As such ours can be considered one of the largest scale online population censuses conducted anywhere in the world. In addition to census data, register-based population data is published and available online, disaggregated by age and sex. Since January of this year, individual identification numbers, called "My Number" have begun to be used in the framework of our social security and tax number system. These measures are intended to increase use of 'e-government' services and promote a so-called 'IT Society'.

Throughout Japan, there are myriads of governmental household surveys used to produce official statistics and optimization under the act entitled the "Second Phase Basic Plan concerning the Development of Official Statistics" is underway. On the one hand, there are difficulties in conducting household surveys due to such reasons as rising consciousness over privacy, an increase of automatically locked apartments and aging enumerators. And on the other hand, government at all levels is working to improve survey methods, such as through the introduction of online surveys.

Additionally, the statistical data obtained needs be internationally comparable, and

also adapted to evolving economic and social situations. Methods being employed to address these needs include the Open-Data approach through the internet on the government statistics portal “[www.e-stat.go.jp](http://www.e-stat.go.jp)”, the promotion of secondary use of microdata, anonymized data and tailor-made tabulation.

Population data is georeferenced and made public through the internet. There are several government platforms, including the Statistics GIS and jSTAT systems, which provide customized mapped governmental statistics for individual users. The RESAS system provides prefectural and municipal information on population, economy and society which is aimed to facilitate municipality level planning to revitalize local economies seeking to overcome local population decline. The Electronic Land Web provides detailed maps in conjunction with downloadable data on various domains, including population. All these systems are available online for free.

Madame Chairperson,

Next month, Japan will host the G7 Summit at Ise-Shima. This is the first G7 summit to be held after the adoption of SDGs and we hope to use the opportunity to renew our commitment to the implementation of the Agenda. High quality and comprehensive population data is of foundational importance for the achievement of the SDGs. Additionally, based on the notion of human security, we believe that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is an important goal to be achieved by the international community. UHC would need to be monitored through population data, which is used as a base to calculate different indicators such as infant and maternal mortality and premature mortality from non-communicable diseases. For that reason, every birth and death should be counted and registered. The importance of civil registration and vital statistics should attract due attention.

In two weeks, the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development will be held in Tokyo. Discussions will be held on five themes; women’s empowerment and gender equality, investing in youth, active ageing, human security and risk management, and global partnership. Parliamentarians as well as representatives of civil society will come together to discuss population and development issues on this occasion. We have begun our journey toward the achievement of SDGs, and maintaining a multi-stakeholder approach will strengthen the process.