

## **International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames**

### **– Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers**

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**JAPAN**  
**Seiji TAKATA**  
**Statistics Bureau,**  
**Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications**  
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**Country progress report 2008**

## **1. Organisation and Population of the Business Registers in Japan**

In April 2008, the Establishment and Enterprise Database (EED) was launched for the purpose of providing common population information and avoiding excess burden for individual establishments/enterprises.

EED was built in accordance with the action plan called “The Optimization of Operations and Systems for Statistical Work”. Under this action plan, the Statistics Bureau has been developing the Inter-Governmental Statistical Information System over the past years, mainly for the purpose of integrating many survey systems, individually developed and maintained by each ministry, into the Inter-Governmental Statistical Information System. The Inter-Governmental Statistical Information System consists of various sub systems, such as the On-line Survey System, Statistical GIS. EED is positioned as one of those sub systems.

The main data source for EED is the Establishment and Enterprise Census conducted by the Statistics Bureau in 2006. It is planned to include the population information of the Census of Manufacturers, the Census of Commerce and the Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations. Moreover, it is also planned to utilize the commercial and corporate registration data.

At present, EED contains 6.09 million establishments and 1.51 million enterprises data.

## **2. Progress and Developments in the Past Year**

### **2.1. Revision of the Statistics Act**

The Statistics Act of Japan was revised in May 2007 and will fully come into force in April 2009. The Act prescribes that

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications should maintain Establishment Database by using the results of official statistics, by inquiring to corporate bodies or via other possible means.
- Central and local governments can use the Database as a sampling frame and as a data source to compile data.

### **2.2. The Planning of the Economic Census**

Statistics Bureau plans the creation of new Economic Census, which aims to clarify comprehensively the economic activities of establishments and enterprises in all industrial sectors at the same time. The first Economic Census scheduled in 2009 is to grasp the existence of establishments and enterprises and their basic characteristics accurately. The results will be used for conducting the 2011 Economic Census, which will place emphasis on surveying accounting items.

The plan of the 2009 Economic Census was approved by the Statistics Committee in August 2008.

The Economic Census is expected to play an important role in enhancing EED.

### **2.3. Matching of the commercial and corporate registration data**

In Japan, all corporate bodies are required to register to the commercial and corporate registration system. However, the registration system may include corporations which are out of action.

Statistics Bureau now conducts matching the registration data with the results of the Establishments and Enterprise Census, in order to specify inactive corporations.

## **3. Issues solved, problems and future plans**

### **3.1 Utilization of the results of the Economic Census**

The results of the 2009 Economic Census will be available by the end of 2010. Current EED will be fully revised by utilizing the results of the Economic Census.

### **3.2 Expansion of the items included in EED**

The 2011 Economic Census will survey accounting items, such as revenue and profits of enterprises. EED will be expanded to include such accounting items.

### **3.3 Utilization of administrative data**

At present, only the commercial and corporate registration data is available, as an administrative data, for a data source of EED.

The Statistics Committee proposes that other administrative data, such as tax data, social security data, etc., should be used to maintain EED.

Statistics Bureau starts to talk with the authorities concerned, but concrete plans are not settled yet.