

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on multiple areas of SDGs and hit people in vulnerable situations the hardest. As we see it imperative to advance the principle “No one is left behind” toward the achievement of SDGs, statistical data including CRVS is critically important.

In Japan, statistical data has been used as the backbone of all actions from the government policy making process on development and social security to private sector projects. Dating back to 1870, Japan’s policy on CRVS started by establishing a legal framework including family registration law, and then made steady progress by omitting clauses about social status or by revising the laws to link the resident registration system with the family registration law. Such legal adjustments are aligned with the principles of the Regional Action Framework, meet the social requirements in Japan, and improve the convenience and consistency of the system.

While the Government of Japan has been focusing on rationalizing statistical data including CRVS, networking the accumulated data by ICT is currently underway. Japan announced its VNR this year and currently is reviewing data related to SDGs including the global index.

Japan is not only improving the statistical data system but is also helping the Asia-Pacific nations to strengthen their capability for statistics collection and utilization through its contribution to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional body of ESCAP. And the fact that over 21000 participants have been trained at SIAP is valued highly in the Asia Pacific and beyond.

As we see it imperative to evaluate the challenges of each SDG goal and assess progress accurately, statistics is one of the most critical tools. In this context, it is extremely important that Asia and Pacific nations will improve statistic data based on the regional action program. Japan will continue to support SIAP to enhance the capability of the regional partners in statistical data.

Dear participants, we are running time by 2030. To enhance the international partnership to achieve SDGs, the role of CRVS is crucial. Japan is ready to share our knowledge and expertise in statistics with the Asia-Pacific nations and remains committed to the international cooperation.

Thank you.