Session 6 of High-level Meeting
Striving for complete and high-quality civil registration and vital statistics
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1 History of CRVS in Japan

- **1867-1899**
  This was the time for Japan to construct modern country systems such as the constitution, administrative systems including local government system, education system, and so on. Concerning CRVS, two civil registration systems (legal address registration on family, actual address registration), Medical system, and so on were established and became nationwide unified systems.

- **1899-1946**
  Legal address registration on family were fully enforced in 1898. Since 1899, Japanese vital statistics was compiled by the cooperation of the Ministry of Justice and the Statistics Bureau of Cabinet office.

- **1946-2012**
  After the confusion of World War II, CRVS has been conducted by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Welfare (now, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare). It is understood that the usefulness of vital statistics for public health became more important.

2 Outline of CRVS in Japan

Registration and Reporting System

Japanese in Japan

- **Person who is obliged to notify his/her vital event**
  - Municipality (legal address of family)
  - Municipality (actual living address)
  - Public Health Center

- **Municipality (legal address of family)**
  - 2 reports by each event

- **Municipality (actual living address)**
  - Inform each other by postal service or by LGWAN

- **Public Health Center**
  - 1 report is submitted to prefecture and another report is kept by Public Health Center
  - Producing a monthly vital statistics for an area of its jurisdiction(city, ward, town, village level)

- **Prefecture (Public Health Division)**
  - 1 report is submitted to Ministry for HLW
  - Compiling a monthly vital statistics for its jurisdiction(prefecture level)

- **Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare**
  - (Public Health Statistical Division)
2 Outline of CRVS in Japan

Survey Items and relevant matters

- **Livebirth** (Medical doctor’s certification is necessary for reporting municipalities.)
- **Death** (Medical doctor’s certification about the cause of death is necessary.) ICD
- **Stillbirth** (Medical doctor’s certification is necessary.) ICD
- **Marriage** (Two adults’ certifications are necessary.)
- **Divorce** (Agreement of the pair is necessary.)

Coverage of the reporting data is more than 99%.
## 2 Outline of CRVS in Japan

### Results and Dissemination

The data is compiled monthly and annually on a nationwide basis, by prefecture, by city, ward, town, and village (in Japanese). These are the data concerning Japanese in Japan. The data concerning foreigners in Japan and Japanese living abroad in Japan are not included because their reporting systems are different from the system for Japanese in Japan. The special report in Japanese and English including three categories has been compiled and disseminated every 5 years since 2003.

### Use for policy making

The results of vital statistics are very important themselves. Furthermore, very important for many analyses with combination of other data by social scientists in Japan. Ex.

- Demographic analysis
- Public health analysis including medical analysis
- Life expectancy
- Accurate estimate of future population by area is essential for the planning for the development of municipalities.
- Reducing of birth issues, aging issues, family problems, gender issues, and so on.
3 Issues just tackled by Japanese Government

1 Vital Statistics on Japanese in Japan has been compiled monthly and annually. More timely compilation of vital statistics on foreigners in Japan and Japanese in foreign countries become necessary.

2 To reduce the work burden in local governments (reporting, clearance of data and so on) for compiling vital statistics by using ICT

4 Lessens learned for complete CRVS and Comments for Discussion

1 Better understanding for CRVS by not only the related ministries and agencies and other public entities but also the people who has a reporting obligation. The education of CRVS merits to the people is one of the important factors for the success.

2 Gradual approach is important because some related systems are necessary for compiling vital statistics. It is very difficult to accomplish all at once.

3 Each outcomes of this High-level meetings are important views. However, the administrative systems of each country are different among countries. Actual and concrete methods which are necessary for establishing the administrative systems for CRVS should be considered bearing in mind the actual situations of each country.