Statistics education initiatives by Japanese Official Statistics

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Statistics education is an important key to promote official statistics as public goods.

The Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the National Statistics Center (**NSTAC**, an SBJ's affiliate agency) disseminate official statistics into the real world of youth, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), academic societies (the Japan Statistics Society (JSS), the Japan Society of Quality Control (JSQC), etc.), school teachers, etc.

The Statistics Act (enacted in 2009)

Article 1

"... Official statistics are critical information infrastructure for the citizens in reasonable decision making ..."

The Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics for 2009-13 (Cabinet decision, 2009)

- It is important to have the public rightly understand that official statistics are critical information infrastructure for reasonable decision-making... To that end,...it is necessary to expand statistics education that emphasizes statistical literacy and statistical ethics in each stage of education, from elementary school education to higher education.
- For teachers, the provision of educational materials will be appropriately carried out, so that teachers can appropriately educate pupils and students on the usefulness of statistics and on the importance of cooperating in statistical surveys.
- For university students and adults, activities such as information provision and lectures will be carried out to deepen their understanding and interest in statistics.

- Three initiatives by Japanese Official Statistics organizations
 - Statistics poster competition
 - Statistics websites for students
 - Anonymised microdata for research and education

- Conducted annually since 1953
- Purpose
 - To raise statistics awareness
 - To improve statistical knowledge and graphical presentation skill in general public.
- Two-stage Competition
 - Prefectural competitions
 - organized by prefectural stats divisions
 under the auspices of the prefectural education boards, etc.
 - The national competition
 - organized by a private foundation (SINFONICA)
 under the auspices of MIC, MEXT, academic societies, etc.
- Some schools request their students to draw statistics posters as one of summer vacation homework.



Schedule of the competition

- June
 - A national training session for statistical graph instructors
 - Prefectural training sessions for local government staff, school teachers, etc.
- July-August (school summer vacation)
 - Statistical poster workshops for pupils and students
- September
 - Deadline for the submission
 - The prefectural competitions
- October
 - The national competition

The number of submissions to prefectural competition: 24,000 works (national total) (in the year of 2012)

Prefectural award winners:

800+ works (national total)

Governor's awards, etc. are selected by prefectural stats division staff, professors and other experts for each of six categories (defined according to school grade year).

The winners of the prefectural competitions are forwarded to the national competition.

- National awards winners:
 - Staff of SBJ and NSTAC select national award works (approx. around 180)
 - Senior staff from MIC and MEXT and professors select
 - **a first award and nine excellence awards** for each of six categories (In total, approx. 60 works)
 - Among the 6 first award works of all the categories, the Minister for Internal affairs and Comm. award, the Minister for Education award, and the JSS President award are selected as the best works.
 - Among the 60 first awards and excellence awards works,
 the JSQC President award is selected
 which has excellence in problem solving.



The National competition awards ceremony is taken place at National Statistics Convention.

- Prize winners' works are
 - exhibited in event spaces of prefectures;
 - published in a booklet and disseminated to prefectural stats div., schools, public libraries, etc.; (see Appendix 1)
 - printed in a calendar as a small gift for the respondents of some statistics surveys. (see Appendix 2)
- Some of those satisfying conditions are submitted to the ISLP Poster Competition.

学なるほど統計学園

Naruhodo Toukei Gakuen (Eureka Stats Academy)

- SBJ manages the site to supply statistical information to students.
- A site design plan was developed by a taskforce of professors and school teachers with the MEXT's School Inspector, and young SBJ and NSTAC staff mobilized on a voluntary basis.
- Building the site was contracted out to a professional web designer.

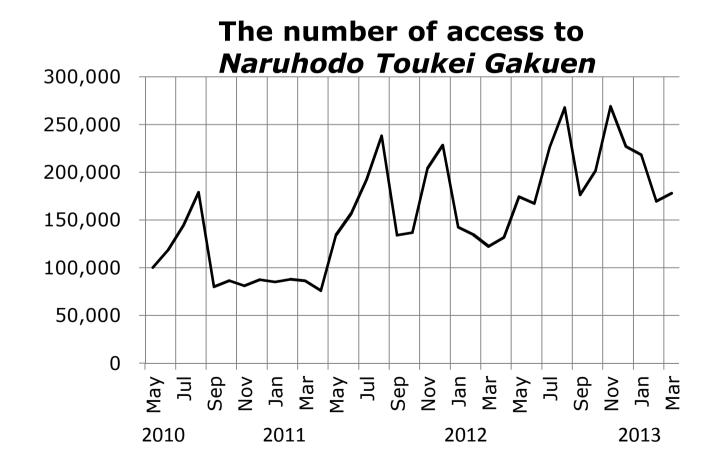




After school

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Stats is one of the popular material for students to work on summer/winter vacation homework.



SBJ held Naruhodo-Toukei-Gakuen boot camp on "MIC Open-House days."



Photos in 7-8 Aug. 2013

3. Annex: Stats website for teachers

統計学習の指導のために(先生向け) **Lesson plans** Collection of lesson plans of school teachers that use official statistics data. Supplementary material Material prepared by SBJ, including documents and past entrance exams, etc. citing official statistics. Reference Excerpts of the National Guideline of School Education (of math, geography, etc.) relating to statistics.

Resources useful for statistics education.

Links

4. Microdata for research and education

- Institutionalized in 2009 by the Statistics Act
 - The service provision is entrusted to NSTAC.
- To promote the usage of the microdata, NSTAC
 - publicizes the anonymised microdata service at academic society conventions;
 - organizes workshops and lectures for researchers and graduate students;
 - forms partnerships with academic institutes to increase user contact points;
 - develops synthetic microdata to supply more easily accessible microdata.

5. Concluding remarks

Statistics education is an important key to promote official statistics as public goods.

Initiatives described in this presentation provide educational material and information of official statistics which influence the youth, thanks to sustained efforts and continuous collaboration among national statistics offices and partners.

Thank you for your attention!

Reference

- The Statistical Act & The Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics (English translation)
 - http://www.stat.go.jp/english/index/index.htm
- National Statistics Poster Contest (in Japanese)
 - http://www.sinfonica.or.jp/tokei/graph/index.html
- Naruhodo Toukei Gakuen (Eureka Stats Academy) (in Japanese)
 - http://www.stat.go.jp/naruhodo/index.htm
- Anonymised Microdata service by NSTAC (in Japanese)
 - http://www.nstac.go.jp/services/anonymity.html

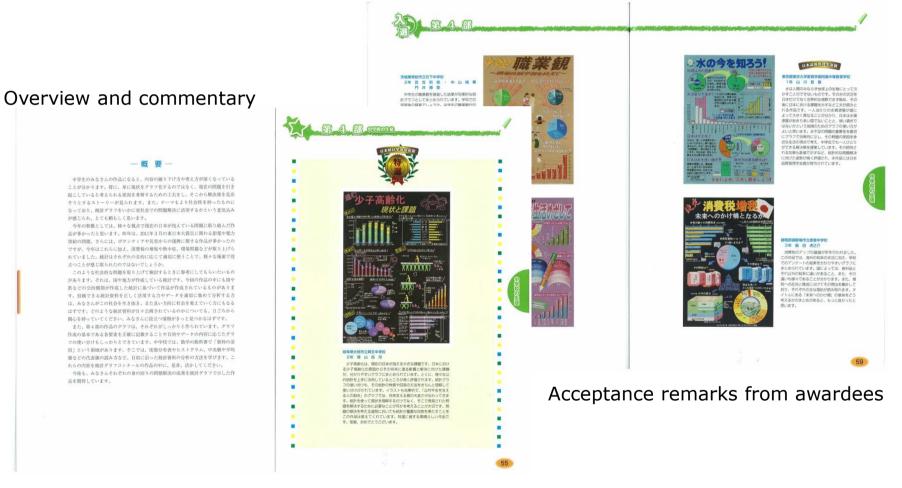
Appendix 1

■ The booklet of the statistics poster competition



Appendix 1 (cont.)

The booklet of the statistics poster competition



The booklet includes tips on drawing statistical graphs and the regulations of the competition.

Appendix 2

A calendar
 as a small gift
 for the respondents
 of the Family
 Income and
 Expenditure Survey
 conducted by SBJ

