

Preface

The 2010 Population and Housing Census (The 2010 Census) is conducted decennially in accordance with Article 3, 4 and 10 of the Statistics Act, Article 7, 25 to 32 of the Enforcement Rules of the Statistics Act as well as the Census Plan with YuanTaiTsai No.0980052517 as of August 31 of 2009. The operation is summarized as follows:

1. Planning and designing : The population and housing census is one of basic national censuses. The first census was launched in 1956 after the government relocated to Taiwan. The following three times of the census were conducted in 1966, 1980 and 1990 respectively. All these four censuses were carried out by the Ministry of Interior in conjunction with the Population Census Office of the Executive Yuan. After the amendment of Household Registration Law in 1997 and abandonment of Population Census Law in 1999, the responsibility of conducting the census had been transferred to the Department of Census, Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS), Executive Yuan. The 1990 and 2010 Census were held by the Department of Census, DGBAS accordingly. The 2010 Census was a Register and Sample-assisted Census. In order to plan the census, the authority had reviewed past census experiences, invited scholars and experts of demographical, statistical and social studies to review and make advise on the census plan, collected census documents of the United Nations (Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses) and absorbed the experiences of worldwide countries, including Singapore, Netherlands, the Nordic countries, the United States of America, Japan and South Korea, etc. Census tests had been performed three times to examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of alternative enumeration methods, roster compilation, questionnaire design and contents, data processing and other related administrative operations. The census plan and detailed operational plans had been finally implemented and approbated by the Executive Yuan. To enhance data quality and efficiency of the census operations, the Department of Census, DGBAS had made reformations on the following aspects :

(1) the Register and Sample-assisted Census : The last census was conducted based on a complete enumeration. With the rapid changing of socio-economic environment and considering of the well-developed computerized official registration system, the Department of Census, DGBAS had made a great reformation on the way of data collection in the 2010 Census by integrating official registration files and linking these files with the data collected from the sampling survey to compile population and housing census statistics. Both data quality and operations efficiency were further enhanced. A total of 16% enumeration areas were sampled and each household and person in these areas was visited. However, group quarters and population with specific features such as servicemen on active duty, dormitory students of junior college or higher level, inmates of detention centers were fully interviewed by the authorities in charge of the businesses.

(2) Policy-oriented questionnaire items : To meet the increasing demand of national policies, economic infrastructure plans and related emerging social issues, a total of 5 items were added to the 2010 Census, including "Language usage", "Industry", "Occupation", "Number of children and their nearest living place", "Having other self-owned house". Data collected from the sampling survey were linked with official registration files to compile more detailed and delicate census statistics for the government and public use.

(3) Digital enumeration areas for sampling : GIS was used to integrate registered addresses with household registration data to set up digital enumeration areas covering whole Taiwan-Fukien area. The enumeration area was clear, steady and homogeneous in terms of both boundary and household characteristics. Therefore, it was an appropriate unit for sampling. The enumeration area was also relatively decent to be used as a reference to assign workloads to reduce missing and duplicates.

(4) Intensive training programs : The census had employed a total of 17,000 enumerators and the number was much less than the number employed in the 2000 Census by 80%. The enumerators were recruited mainly from government staff and qualified civilian labor force. The training was enhanced by highlight the key point of the census operations in the instructor's guide, setting up standard procedure of interview, making more examples to show how to fill out the census form and review for completeness and accuracy, making short films to show how to perform an interview, offering practice sessions in the workshop, etc.

(5) Multi ways of promotion : To motivate the public cooperation, multi ways of promotion were designed including press and media programs. Slogan as "3 NO and 2 YES" was displayed on all promotion materials. "3 NO" stands for "No, the interviewer will not disclose your personal data to anyone.", "No, the interviewer will not ask you any data other than census form items." and "No, the interviewer will not ask you to provide your bank account number." "2 YES" stands for "Yes, the interviewer will show you his/her identification card when he/she visits you." and "Yes, the interviewer will send the notice of visit to you personally." Census writing pad and calendar were designed and distributed to elementary school students and teachers to encourage census participation.

(6) Extensive use of census data : The census had compiled not only the Preliminary Summary Report and the General Report (including Abstract Report I and II, Abstract Summary Report (both in Chinese and English version), County/City Report (25 volumes)) but released the Thematic Supplementary Report as well including the Indigenous Population Report, the Handicapped Population Report, the Nationals Health and Clinic Report by linking with the official registration data and hence may provide more detailed census statistics for the government and public use.

2. Field operation: The census was conducted mainly using personal interview to enumerate each person, household and housing unit in the sampled enumeration areas from December 26 of 2010 to January 22 of 2011.

3. Data processing and statistics compilation :

(1) The data were mainly processed by electronic computing system and personal computer. Some questionable and unresolved cases were handled by staff and data clerks. The Preliminary Summary Report was compiled for basic important census items prior to the release of the General Report in accordance with the Statistics Act and the Census Plan and publicized both on the web and in a paper form timely for public use after approbated by the Executive Yuan on November 3 of 2011.

(2) The General Report and the Thematic Supplementary Report were compiled consecutively. More of the detailed statistics such as handicapped population status, indigenous population status, total floor area and completion year of construction, etc. were compiled by linking census data with the official registration files. All statistics and analyses were reviewed by the experts, scholars and the Census Evaluation Committee. All reports were published and publicized both on the web and in a paper form for public use after approbated by the Executive Yuan.

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