Statement provided by:
Statistics Korea, The Republic of Korea

Statement:

The Republic of Korea fully agrees with the observation made regarding how COVID-19 had a profound and extensive impact on the entire process of the 2020 Round of Censuses, from planning, preparation and execution to data processing and dissemination.

In the face of this global pandemic, Statistics Korea successfully implemented a five-year 20% sample survey, which was run parallel with a register-based census, within the established deadline for November 2020. This is attributable to the diverse response mode that were made available through the use of the statistical register created in 2015 and the expansion of electronic surveys. We have established an integrated management system to allow respondents to continue with the survey without causing duplication even in cases where they change their response mode during the course of the survey. To ensure the safety of both respondents and enumerators and minimize any in-person contacts, we have reinforced cyber training and have based our publicity activities more heavily on electronic media.

We endorse the establishment of national statistical population registers using administrative data to respond to the increasing burden and cost of field surveys and the unavailability of in-person surveys amid such crises as COVID-19.

In the Republic of Korea, the first-ever register-based census was performed in 2015, and this was made possible following the three rounds of amendments to the nation’s Statistics Act, which laid the legal groundwork for the acquisition and provision of administrative data.

To share Statistics Korea’s experience in successfully executing the 2020 census in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will make the relevant introductory materials and cyber training materials openly and easily available through the platforms.

Submitted on: 2/17/2022