

# From the Commissioner

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The mission of the NTA is “to help taxpayers meet their tax responsibilities properly and without difficulty.” To succeed in this mission, the NTA endeavors to provide complete service to taxpayers as well as to conduct proper and fair taxation and collection so that compliant taxpayers feel that tax laws are applied fairly to everyone.

In addition, in tandem with development of the globalization of the economy and the sophistication of information, Japan’s tax administration environment has been changing considerably. Amidst such circumstances, we have been implementing various measures to continuously pursue the NTA’s mission.

In terms of enhancing taxpayer service, the NTA offers helpful information to taxpayers about tax filing and payment via the NTA website and other sources in an easy-to-understand manner, and the NTA has also taken a number of steps to make the filing and payment procedures more accessible to taxpayers utilizing ICT, including online national tax return filing and payment system (e-Tax) as well as filing assistance on the NTA website.

The NTA will take measures to further improvement of taxpayers’ convenience with the introduction of the Social Security and Tax Number System as a turning point.

In terms of achieving proper and fair taxation and collection, we are taking rigorous actions against large and vicious fraudulent cases, thereby protecting the interests of taxpayers. At the same time, we are promoting voluntary enhancement of corporate governance regarding tax matters at large enterprises in order to maintain and improve the level of tax filing.

In recent years in particular, amid further globalization of the economy, public interest has been significantly growing in international tax avoidance cases due to the disclosure of the so-called “Panama Papers” and progress in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.

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With the addressing of international taxation being set as an important task, the NTA has been working on the enhancement of information collection and utilization, and cooperation with foreign competent authorities. We also have been actively conducting examination, etc., after establishing and expanding a system for specialized areas.

We will continue to appropriately deal with the act of hiding assets overseas and international tax avoidance performed by the affluent taxpayers and corporations that conduct cross-border transactions, and will actively address international taxation issues that newly arise.

Every member of the staff at the NTA is dedicated to help taxpayers file tax returns and pay tax due properly and without difficulty, through various measures as stated above.

To expedite implementation of such measures, taxpayers' understanding and trust in tax administration are essential. Therefore, the NTA provides information on our various activities, policy initiatives, and other issues in the most lucid manner possible through the NTA website, press releases, and other opportunities.

The NTA Report is one of such efforts and explains our activities and developments for the previous year together with statistical data and other references.

I would appreciate it if this "National Tax Agency Report 2017" would help you to better understand us and the NTA.

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**Hidenori Sakota**

Commissioner  
National Tax Agency, Japan