

# From the Commissioner

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People's life and economic activities of Japan have been much affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even under such unprecedented situation, the NTA needs to fulfill the mission of "to help taxpayers properly and smoothly fulfill their tax duties."

To that end, too, we will strive to realize appropriate and fair taxation and tax collection, while continuing to improve the convenience for taxpayers and making the taxation and tax collection more sophisticated and efficient.

Against the rapid progress of digitalization in economy and society, in order to promote the above initiatives, it is important to effectively use data and digital technology. Given this viewpoint as well, a new policy to "ensure a fundamental review of the aspired state of the procedures and operations relating to national taxes using digital technologies" was clarified, and a vision to realize "a society where all tax procedures can be completed without going to a Tax Office" was indicated in the "Digital Transformation of Tax Administration —Future Vision of Tax Administration 2.0—," released in June 2021. In addition, in December 2021, we released "DX for tax administration: Roadmap towards realization of the plan" and we are steadily pursuing necessary measures for enhancing taxpayer convenience and sophisticating taxation and collection/improving efficiency therein.

More specifically, for example, effective in January 2022, it became allowable to read the tax withholding slip for salary income by using smartphone camera, for the purpose of tax return filing of income tax. Also, we are endeavoring to expand the scope of data for which the Mynportal linkage function (this function enables data acquisition via the Mynportal and automatic entry thereof to tax return) can be used.

We will continue to improve the taxpayer convenience, aiming to realize a "society where all tax procedures can be completed without going to a Tax Office." When you need to file a tax return or pay any taxes, please consider to use e-Tax or cashless payment, as such alternative methods are getting increasingly more convenient to use.

In addition, we understand that it is quite important to provide taxpayers with necessary information timely to enable them to understand the taxation system well.

In relation to the Invoice System which will take effect in October 2023, we began accepting applications to register as an eligible invoice issuer in October 2021.

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For the smooth introduction of the invoice system, each business operators need to fully understand the system well so that they deal with and prepare for the system in accordance with each business operation. To help such endeavors, relevant video about the system, various pamphlets and Q&A are uploaded to the “Special site for the Invoice System” on the NTA website; additionally, online explanatory sessions are available occasionally and we dispatch instructors to explanatory sessions for business operators.

Regarding the efforts to realize appropriate and fair taxation and tax collection, we strive to protect the rights and interests of taxpayers as well as to take rigorous measures across the organization against malicious taxpayers not to make the taxpayers who have filed tax returns and paid taxes adequately feel unfair.

In addition, to properly respond to the incessant changes in the environment of economic transactions, in line with the advance of digitalization throughout society, we are endeavoring to improve the efficiency in taxation and tax collection and sophisticating the whole process through analyzing and using various data.

For steadily fulfilling the missions imposed on the NTA from now on, we would like to properly respond to the future economic and social changes, implement the required BPR (Business Process Reengineering) leveraging the advantage points of digitalization, and ensure ongoing evolution as an organization.

I would appreciate if this report, “National Tax Agency Report 2022,” would help you to better understand tax administration.

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大鹿 行宏

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