

From the Commissioner

The NTA's mission is to properly and smoothly help taxpayers realize the voluntary fulfillment of tax-payment duties. To perform this mission, the NTA is striving to improve the convenience of tax payment procedures etc. as well as to promote the measures for realizing proper and fair taxation and tax collection.

Given the recent major structural transformation for the whole economy and society (rapid globalization, digitalization, etc.), the environment surrounding tax administration is also changing dramatically. To properly respond to such changes in the economy and society, the NTA is promoting “digital transformation (DX) for tax administration” where we proactively use daily-evolving digital technology.

We are tackling this “DX for tax administration” from three perspectives: ① improvement in convenience for taxpayers, ② enhancement of taxation and tax collection operations, and ③ promotion of digitalization for business operators.

Firstly, as to ① improvement in convenience for taxpayers, we are improving the environment to enable general taxpayers to complete various tax-related procedures by using their daily-use tools such as smart phone. Already, for tax return of income tax, about three-quarters of people are using e-Tax, so the number of people visiting the tax return filing venues has significantly decreased. Looking forward, we would want more people to follow the convenient procedures using certain digital devices.

② To enhance taxation and tax collection operations, we are proactively providing administrative guidance to urge voluntary reviews of simple errors and pursuing active use of data and online tools as the base to promote effective examination and collection operations. Going forward, we will continue to aim for realizing proper and fair taxation and tax collection, while protecting the rights and benefits of taxpayers and executing strict examinations and coercive collection orders, etc. using organization-wide resources, targeting malicious tax evasion and delinquency cases.

③ Digitalization of business operators is being promoted from the perspective of DX promotion for whole society starting from taxation. If various operations by business operators (accounting, financial management, etc.) are digitalized, we can expect accuracy improvement through preventing simple errors as well as productivity improvement through enhanced operational efficiency. Therefore, the NTA is promoting various dissemination and PR activities, to facilitate digitalization for business operators, while collaborating with related ministries and agencies.

In addition to the work of taxation and tax collection, sound development of the liquor business as well is an important mission for the NTA to perform. In December 2024, "Traditional knowledge and skills of *sake*-making with *koji* mold in Japan" (covering Japanese sake, shochu, awamori, etc.) was registered as a new item of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. Given the expectations that we will continue to receive a lot of inbound people (the Osaka Kansai Expo is one of the drivers now), while leveraging such opportunities to its maximum, the NTA will continue to make proactive efforts to vitalize the liquor business and to implement export promotion for Japan-made liquor products.

In this "National Tax Agency Report 2025," various initiatives of the NTA, such as the utilization of digital technology and promotion of the liquor business as described above, are introduced in a manner easy to understand using charts and photos. We hope this could contribute to deepening your understanding of the tax administration.

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奥達雄

Tatsuo Oku

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