

From the Commissioner

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 enhanced service to taxpayers as well as to conduct proper and fair taxation and collection so that taxpayers feel that tax laws are applied fairly to everyone.

In addition, in tandem with development of the globalization of the economy and ICT, 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.

To be more specific, starting January 2019, the NTA will implement a system which will simplify the use of e-Tax for individual taxpayers, enabling wage earners to file for refunds by deducting medical expense and Hometown tax (tax deduction for donations to prefectures or municipalities of your choice) through smartphones and other devices. Under such efforts, the NTA is striving to enhance convenience for all taxpayers.

In addition, concerning the My Number System, the NTA will continue to enhance efficiency of administrative tasks and examine ways in which to further improve taxpayers’ convenience through effective use of My Number and Corporate Numbers.

In terms of achieving proper and fair taxation and collection, we are taking rigorous actions against large and vicious fraudulent cases, thereby protecting the rights and 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 and complication of the economy, public interest has been significantly growing in international tax avoidance cases due to the disclosure of the so-called “Panama Papers”, “Paradise Papers” and progress in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.

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.

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.

In June of last year, the NTA consolidated and announced the "Future Vision of Tax Administration" in an effort to highlight the future vision of tax administration that is to be sought from the perspective of transparency of tax administration, with recognition to the importance of making solid progress towards its realization.

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 2018" would help you to better understand us and the NTA.

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Takeshi Fujii

Acting Commissioner
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