

The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: A Global Review

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The 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, which spans from 2005 to 2014, is coming close to an end. The programme has been a great success in terms of country participation worldwide. As a result, it is expected that nearly 98 per cent of the world population will have been enumerated by national censuses by the end of the census round. The paper aims at providing a global review of the 2010 census programme, based on the results of surveys conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division. It will argue that the 2010 census round has been a transitional time, as many societal and technological changes are driving the way that countries conduct a census. Many countries have attempted to conduct a census in more innovative ways, in particular, by introducing new or multiple methods to obtain the census data and using modern technologies. At the same time, there have also been challenges confronting census-taking. Among the emerging challenges include lack of technical expertise to utilize the available technology, growing concern about intrusion into privacy and confidentiality, difficulties in reaching respondents, and rising cost or budget of census.

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