Progress of the Implementation of SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan ~For Addressing the WSSD2020 Goal~

Steady implementation

The Example of the Efforts Made by the Government

The Promotion of Science-based Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment under CSCL (the Chemical Substances Control Law)

Objective
To prevent environmental contamination by chemicals that may be harmful for human health and/or to the inhabitant or growth of animals and plants.

Prior evaluation and regulation of new chemical substances
Continuous management of existing substances
Regulation by properties
Persistence, Bioaccumulation, Long term toxicity

Step-wise risk assessment

CSCL Chemical Inventory
Notified Chemical Substances
Screening Assessment
Designation of PACs
Risk Assessment (Tier 1, I, II, III)
Class II Specified Chemical Substances

Class II Specified Chemical Substances
23 substances * (designated under an old system)

Role of business
- Notify annual volume of manufacture etc. (mandatory)
- Submit hazard information (voluntary)
- Notify annual volume of manufacture etc. with detailed usage (mandatory)
- Submit requested hazard information
- Conduct administratively instructed hazard properties study (long-term toxicity tests) (mandatory upon instruction)
- Notify planned annual volume of manufacture, etc.
- Technical guidance for use, etc.

Response to Emerging and Uncertain Issues

Overview of the Japan Environment & Children's Study (JECS)

Core Hypothesis:
Exposure to environmental chemicals in utero and in early childhood adversely affects children’s health

Method: Birth cohort study

Sample Size: 100,000 participants nationwide

Study Duration: Recruitment 3 years(2011-2014), follow up for 13 years(2011-2028)

Objectives:
(1) Identification of environmental factors impacting on children’s health
(2) Development of risk management systems that reduce children’s exposure to the harmful environment
(3) Creation of a sound environment for future generations
(4) Establishment of the foundation for children’s study

Risk Reduction throughout the Entire Life-cycle

Structure of the PRTR System (PRTR: Pollutant Release and Transfer Register)

Report the estimated annual released quantities
Recognize the released quantities and improve the chemical management.
Collect and disclose the reported data to the public.
Increase the public awareness of emissions and chemical management.

The Results so far

Transition of Reported Amount of Chemicals Released and Transferred for fiscal year 2001 to 2013

On FY2014, the sum of the total quantities of release and the total quantities of waste chemicals transferred to be treated was 376,000 tons.

The MOYAI Initiative, presented by Japan at the Diplomatic Conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, consists of two pillars: [1] supporting developing countries; and [2] promoting voices and messages from Minamata.

MOYAI Initiative for Networking, Assessment and Strengthening (MINAS)

Japan’s Commitment on the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Strengthening of Safety and Security

MOYAI Initiative

Supporting developing countries for the implementation of the Convention
Cooperation among the relevant parties

Policy Dialogue concerning Chemicals and the Environment

Contribute to reduction of the environmental risks associated with chemicals and building of a society where citizens can live safely in peace

Citizens/Consumer Groups and NGOs/NPOs

Government

Industrial Associations and Labor Organizations

SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan expects civil society organizations such as NGOs/NPOs to serve as mediators for the activities by citizens, businesses, national and local governments, and other actors while undertaking their own missions, most notably providing objective and lucid information and advice, on the risks of chemical substances. Some activities performed by civil society organizations are shown below:

• Brochures providing information on the risks of chemical substances
• Workshops and seminars for citizens
• Questionnaires surveys for citizens etc.

Organizations whose initiatives are included in the "Progress in the Implementation of SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan ANNEX 3"

- Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA)
- Japan Soap and Detergent Association (JSDA)
- Japan Endocrine-disruptor Preventive Action (JEPA)
- Japan Housewives’ Association (Shufuren)
- NGO Network for Realization of the Aarhus Convention in Japan (Aarhus Net Japan)
- Toxic Watch Network Japan (T-Watch)

"Policy Dialogue concerning Chemicals and the Environment" was created as a new venue where stakeholders gather with the aim of proposing policies. Eight meetings have been held so far. Discussions, etc. on formulations and reviews of SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan took place.

The relevant parties commit to their own efforts

Gifu Prefecture

The Agricultural Management Section of the Gifu Prefectural government has been working on R&D of a small weeding robot for paddy fields, nicknamed "Agamo Robot". The Agamo Robot is a moving mechanism equipped with crawler belts. The crawler belts “stamp and pull weeds and muddy the water” to impede their growth.

Kumamoto Prefecture

Kumamoto Prefecture has been taking the initiative in creating a "mercury-free society" that shuns the use of products containing mercury as much as possible and properly disposes of such products at the ends of their lives.

Sapporo City

Sapporo City takes stock of the amounts of chemicals released by businesses and encourages them to properly manage chemicals and voluntarily reduce their releases with two systems: the PRTR system under the PRTR Law, and the system for proper management of chemicals under its ordinance on the protection of the living environment.

Osaka Prefecture

Osaka Prefecture works with Osaka City, Sakai City, and other municipalities to organize a seminar on chemicals management once a year. Good practices in risk communication by businesses are presented at the seminar, which is usually attended by about 400-500 people.