

ANNEX 1

**Review Results on SAICM National Implementation Plan
of Japan
(Local Governments: 47 Prefectures and Designated Cities)**

(March, 2020)

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(Local Governments: 47 Prefectures and Designated Cities)**

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I Introduction

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) National Implementation Plan of Japan was compiled in September 2012 at the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on SAICM as an indicator of future strategies for achieving the WSSD 2020 goals. The plan states, “the progress of SAICM National Implementation Plan will be reviewed in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on SAICM prior to ICCM4 to be held in 2015, and the results will be announced.”

The progress of the plan was reviewed from 2014 to 2015. In this year when the WSSD 2020 goals become due, this report describes results of the review in various initiatives by local governments among other actors in SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan.

SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan expects local governments not only to properly enforce national laws and their own ordinances but also to play an important role in further facilitating chemicals management by businesses as well as risk communication at the local level. Chemicals management activities by local governments are diverse, ranging from those dictated by national laws and regulations to those that are highly distinctive. This highlights the need to comprehensively grasp the status of all these activities in implementing SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan.

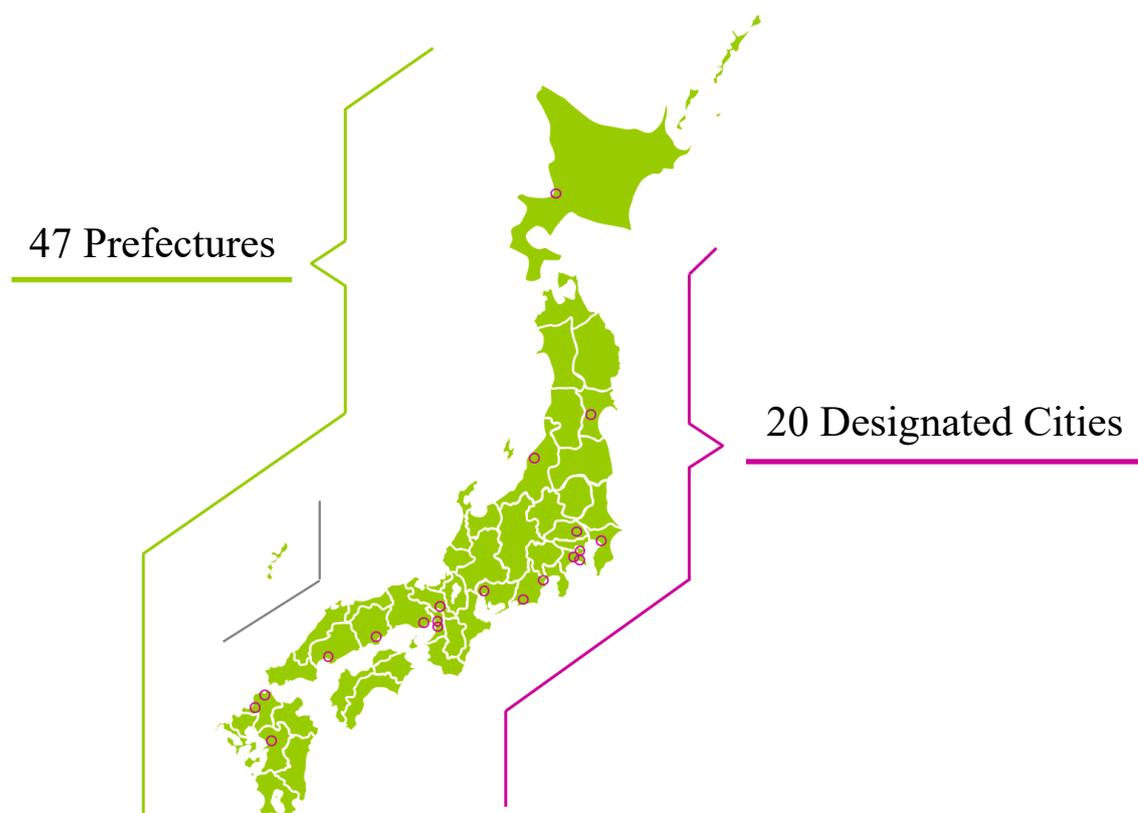
In this respect, the report has compiled various initiatives on chemical management implemented by local governments through interviews, e-mail questionnaires, and other means.

The results of the Review show that progress has been generally made in the SAICM-related initiatives by local governments. Further steps that the civil local governments need to work on will be considered based on a new international framework on chemical substance management after 2020, which is scheduled to be formulated in ICCM5, the national plan formulated by the government as an alternative to the SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan, and based on issues pointed out by this review.

II How to Proceed with the Review of SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan

The National Implementation Plan of Japan states, in Chapter 3 “Implementation and Enforcement Measures,” that local governments are expected “to play an important role in further promotion of chemicals management by businesses including small to medium-sized ones, local promotion of risk communication, etc., in addition to the thorough implementation of laws and ordinances suited to the local circumstances.”

The survey was thus conducted targeting 67 local governments--47 prefectures and 20 cities designated under Article 252 of the Local Autonomy Law—for activities regarding SAICM, with a focus on their initiatives mentioned in the Annual Reports on Environment and other publications. All the 67 local governments responded.



III Overview of Measures

1. Classification of Local Government Measures

SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan provides that the government should work with local governments to take measures about the emission of chemicals, at the recycling or disposal phase of products containing chemicals, and in case of accidents or disasters involving chemicals emissions. It has been confirmed that the local governments adequately address these measures, including those stipulated under the national laws and regulations of Japan. (Activities based on the national laws and regulations of Japan are described in results of national review.)

It has also been confirmed that some local governments take highly distinctive measures, including organizing local seminars aimed at further disseminating national laws and regulations and establishing their own ordinances designed to tighten regulations.

This Review organized local government measures, focusing on unique initiatives under the classifications 2.1 to 2.9 that are shown in the table below.

The correspondence between classifications below and the items of the questionnaire by local governments is shown in IV. In addition, “Overview of the Measures by Local Governments” and “Initiatives in each local governments” are not completely in one-to-one correspondence. Based on information taken by interviews with local governments, initiatives were placed as needed for organizing.

Classification of local government measures	
2. Overview of the Measures by Local Governments	
Promoting the scientific assessment of their risks	
2.1	Monitoring efforts for chemicals
2.2	R&D Activities
Risk reduction throughout whole life-cycle	
2.3	Measures for Appropriate Chemical Management
2.4	Measures for Disposal/Resource Recycling in Chemical Management
Dealing with uncertain issues	
2.5	Measures by Research Institutes of Local Governments
2.6	Measures for Disseminating and Supporting Uncertain Issues
Strengthening of safety and security	
2.7	Measures for Information Disclosure and Risk Communication
2.8	Measures for Promotion, Awareness-raising, and Training regarding Chemicals Management
2.9	Measures for Disaster Prevention and Security regarding Chemicals Management

2. Overview of the Measures by Local Governments

Promoting the scientific assessment of their risks

2.1 Monitoring efforts for chemicals

- Based on monitoring in accordance with national laws and regulations, local governments set stricter regulations than national laws and regulations, add controlled substances, add standards at site boundaries, and set standards for water quality conservation in ordinances issued by each prefectural government (so-called additional regulations.)
- In some examples, memorandums that are stricter than the regulations stipulated by laws are exchanged according to the characteristics of factories, in order to control emissions of air pollutants.
- In addition, utilizing PRTR information, monitoring surveys and fact-finding surveys are being conducted around business establishments that have a large amount of emissions.
- In addition to some examples where various substances are voluntarily monitored, including endocrine disruptors, asbestos, agricultural chemicals, heavy metals, and other unregulated substances, there are some examples where investigation of the causes or dredging is being carried out when dioxins are detected or when other substances exceed the standard values.
- Some examples show development of a system that provides information collected by predicting air pollution from various weather data to relevant organizations, or a comprehensive system that shares and provides information to residents by analyzing the relationship between emissions of air pollutants from factories and automobiles and monitored air pollution.
- There are other examples where dioxins adhering to microplastics that exist in the ocean or others are being researched.
- In some examples, simple measurements of formaldehyde in classrooms of prefectural schools have been conducted. In addition, some examples show that a test paper to detect formaldehyde is provided to those who seek advice, and indoor concentrations are measured using a detector tube as necessary.

2.2 R&D Activities

- Research institutions in local governments are monitoring the actual condition of environmental pollution, including POPs.
- Regarding transboundary pollution of PM 2.5 and so forth, there are some examples where distribution characteristics surveys are being conducted jointly with neighboring local governments and South Korea.
- Research on risk mitigation in the event of an accident or a disaster is also being conducted, including development of prompt analysis methods for emergency situations and research on disaster waste management.
- Some examples show that research is conducted on reducing the use of agricultural chemicals by improving a small robot for weeding and establishing an organic wet-rice cultivation system.
- In some examples, development of a method of analyzing dioxins adhering to microplastics that exist in the coasts and rivers is carried out.
- There are some examples where test methods have been developed to assess the risk of chemicals contained in synthetic resins and containers and packaging.

Risk reduction throughout whole life-cycle

2.3 Measures for Appropriate Chemicals Management

- In order to further promote the appropriate management of chemicals at business establishments, each local government formulates ordinances and guidelines for appropriate management of designated chemicals. (Other than guidelines for appropriate management of designated chemicals, it has various names, including guidelines on the environmental management of chemicals, guidelines for environmental-friendly handling of chemicals, and appropriate management procedures.) In some examples, among the substances specified in the ordinances, the types of designated substances that are used and the period of use are required to be reported periodically to the business operators.
- Regarding the PRTR system, there are examples where an ordinance mandates expansion of notification requirements, reporting of the amount handled, and addition of target substances. In addition, some local governments require business operators under the PRTR Law (Law concerning Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) to prepare management plans and management goals, and to report the achievement of the goals. Some local governments also support assessment of the safety impact of chemicals emitted from business establishments and efforts related to measures for lowering them.
- Regarding agricultural chemicals, support is offered for surveys on the actual amount of agricultural chemicals used, research and studies on environmental impact and emission control technologies, conducting of workshops and publicity activities, and areas and farming activities where chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals are reduced. In addition, workshops are held for the purpose of preservation of life away from scattering of agricultural chemicals and others, leading to enlightenment on the proper use of agricultural chemicals.
- Regarding use of agricultural chemicals at golf courses, some local governments formulate guidelines for the proper use of agricultural chemicals at golf courses and require the proper use of agricultural chemicals at golf courses, water quality inspections, and reports on the status of usage.
- Some local governments are working on establishing an appropriate system for separating and collecting mercury-containing products in order to prevent environmental pollution due to mercury.
- As a measure against asbestos, some local governments conduct on-site surveys on usage of spraying materials and formulate ordinances that regulate scattering of asbestos targeted at demolition work of buildings and structures.
- As a measure against sick house syndrome, some examples show that technical guidance on building materials and ventilation equipment and health consultation for prefectural residents on chemicals are offered. In addition, publicity and lectures on measure against sick house syndrome by establishment of a consultation center, awareness raising on sick house syndrome, and introduction of measurement agencies of chemicals are carried out.
- There are some examples where household utensils are subject to trial purchase tests, and their content amount of chemicals are investigated. In addition, some local governments provide information on the regulation of household utensils containing hazardous substances, as well as preparing educational leaflets for safe and secure use of products.

2.4 Measures for Disposal/Resource Recycling in Chemicals Management

- Based on the Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes, each prefectural government formulates PCB wastes treatment plans and guidelines, conducts on-site inspections and provides guidance for business operators, publicizes the initiatives using the media, and makes contributions to the PCB Waste Management Fund.
- In order to curb the generation of dioxins, local governments make efforts including guidance to business establishments, reduction of waste generation and incineration, and consolidation of small facilities.
- Measures against asbestos at the time of building demolition are promoted and waste treatment technologies are developed.

Dealing with Uncertain Issues

2.5 Measures by Research Institutes of Local Governments

- Some research institutes of local governments study neonicotinoid insecticides and the generation mechanism elucidation of PM 2.5, grasp the distribution of vermin, develop the technologies of microchemical analysis, develop simultaneous analysis methods for other components, conduct morphological analysis of heavy metals in a river, develop analytical methods for pharmaceuticals that exist in the environment, implemented (or planned) monitoring, and assess the risk.

2.6 Measures for Disseminating and Supporting Uncertain Issues

- With regard to endocrine disruptors, a study group on environmental hormones and an information exchange committee on endocrine disruptors have been set up to collect information on new scientific knowledge, consider countermeasures, and conduct a test on residual agricultural chemicals.
- There are some examples where brochures have been utilized to disseminate and clarify information on chemical sensitivity and introduce measurement agencies of chemicals. In addition, some local governments support patient associations for chemical sensitivity, such as lectures at the time of an event.

Strengthening of safety and security

2.7 Measures for Information Disclosure and Risk Communication

- As efforts that aim to promote environmental communication, various activities are carried out, including plant tours, introduction of initiatives by business operators, conducting questionnaires to business operators, holding seminars, distribution of flyers, holding workshops to deepen mutual understanding through exchanging opinions of local residents, and holding workshops intended for company managers.
- In addition to various kinds of support for business operators wishing to implement risk communication, such as planning, coordinating, and dispatching chemical advisors, risk communication workshops incorporating hands-on exercises, preparation and distribution of reference casebooks and guidebooks, and model projects for a dialogue of the environment are carried out.
- Environmental reports prepared by business operators are posted on the websites of local governments (Environmental Report Bank).
- Some local governments compile and release control targets of chemicals reported by business operators based on the ordinances.
- In order to provide information on chemicals for residents and business operators, seminars on measures against chemicals and VOC are held, as are lectures on-demand.
- Various information are available via websites and booklets, including statistical data on notified PRTR information, monitoring survey results of chemicals in the environment, guidebooks for the residents of a prefecture to interpret PRTR data, emissions from factories and business establishments, and information on toxicity of chemicals.
- In some examples, air pollution data from monitoring stations are automatically collected and totalized using a continuous monitoring system, and the real-time pollution status is posted on the website. When a PM 2.5 warning is issued, some local governments send out information using multiple media such as television, radio, websites, and disaster prevention e-mails.
- In some examples, along with connecting relevant departments and agencies within the local government online to collect and share information, a comprehensive environmental information system that provides information to residents of the prefecture using the Internet has been developed. Information such as air quality, water quality, and information on waste is provided through this system.
- There are some examples where a prefectural government has been collecting statistics on pollution complaints sent to a consultation service in municipalities.
- Some local governments have developed an “environmental risk assessment method” that is easy to use for business operators, compiled it as a guidebook, and published it on their websites.

2.8 Measures for Promotion, Awareness-raising, and Training regarding Chemicals Management

- Seminars for raising public awareness and educating are being held for business operators to facilitate voluntary improvement of their management. In addition, efforts are being made to support development of environmental technicians in a private company so that they can work on various environmental initiatives, including compliance with overseas laws and regulations such as RoHS and REACH. We can also find some examples where services to send specialists of environmental issues are being implemented for business operators that aim to introduce an environmental management system.
- In order to encourage citizens to deepen their understanding and interest in environmental issues, lectures on-demand and environmental communication workshops are held, where environmental issues such as measures against chemicals, and the efforts and measure against them by prefectural governments are explained. In addition, environmental education and learning advisors are introduced and panels are lent out.
- Initiatives such as giving lectures on risk communication and conducting group work for high school, and sending out instructors to conduct environmental experiment classes for elementary school students are taken. Lectures on basic knowledge on chemicals are being given upon request. In some examples, as a part of eco schools projects at schools, efforts are underway to learn about the survey results of acid rain and air pollution.

2.9 Measures for Disaster Prevention and Security regarding Chemicals Management

- Local governments' own chemicals management guidelines stipulate how to deal with incidents and how to report them. Some of them request regular implementation of drills to deal with accidents or disasters.
- Efforts have been made to prepare a “Disaster Countermeasures Manual” that summarizes measures that can be used by business operators in preparation for a major earthquake disaster, and let business operators know about them. In addition, in order to reduce the risk of chemicals in case of disaster, some local governments work on various efforts, including establishing a system that allows prompt response in an emergency, supporting the preparation of an emergency response manual, and requiring business operators of a certain size or more to report measures for lowering environmental risk in preparation for a major disaster.
- There are some examples in which environmental risk assessments in the event of a disaster are implemented in accordance with the characteristics of the region, and new measures against a disaster that business operators should introduce/strengthen are compiled.
- Based on past water quality accidents, ordinances have been revised in order to prevent water quality accidents, and proper management of chemicals that have a large impact on tap water is being promoted. In addition, preparations including cooperation with related organizations and installation of oil mats are underway so that measures can be taken promptly to prevent the spread of water pollution in case of a water quality accident.
- In order to prevent environmental pollution and disasters caused by chemicals, information such as the physical properties and the toxicity of chemicals that need appropriate chemical management is offered via online communications. Also, business operators are working on preventing leakage of chemicals and developing a response system in case of disaster.
- In addition to working on the maintenance and review of manuals and others by public administrations and business operators assuming fires and accidents at factories and business establishments as well as the coordination and adjustment with related organizations, a disaster waste treatment plan that aims to treat waste generated due to disasters properly and promptly has been formulated.

- Some local government have concluded an agreement with their local analytical institutions on the research of chemicals in the event of disaster in order to grasp the status of environmental pollution in case of disaster.