

ANNEX 3

Progress in the Implementation of SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan (Civic/Consumer Groups and NGOs/NPOs)

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I. Introduction

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) National Implementation Plan of Japan, compiled in September 2012, states, “the progress of SAICM National Implementation Plan will be reviewed in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on SAICM prior to the 4th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) to be held in 2015, and the results will be announced.” This report describes progress in various initiatives by Civic/Consumer Groups and NGOs/NPOs among other actors in SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan.

SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan of 2012 identifies as participants in development of the Plan not only workers, businesses, the national and local governments, and academic experts but also citizens. SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan expects civil society organizations such as NGOs/NPOs to serve as a mediator for activities by citizens, businesses, the national and local governments, and other actors while undertaking their own missions, most notably providing these actors with objective and lucid information and advice on the risks with chemical substances. The plan introduces specific cases of chemicals management initiatives by civil society organizations.

In this respect, the report has compiled various initiatives on chemical management implemented by the civil society organizations through interviews and other surveys and the obtained progress data.

The results of the Review show that civil society organizations have been taking a wide and varied range of initiatives with regard to some of the issues that are identified in SAICM National Implementation Plan of Japan as “emerging and uncertain issues” or “issues to be examined in the future”; in other words, issues that have not been adequately addressed by governmental actors and issues that citizens are not fully aware of. These initiatives include organizing study meetings, holding seminars and lecture meetings for citizens, and providing them with information via websites and pamphlets and with consultation services. The Review has concluded that progress has been generally made in all these initiatives. Further steps for the civil society organizations in response to this Review, which includes but not limited to the revision of the National Implementation Plan, will be considered after the ICCM4 meeting.

II. Selected Initiatives by Civil Society Organizations

1. NGO Network for Realization of the Aarhus Convention in Japan (Aarhus Net Japan)

[About the Organization]

The NGO Network for Realization of the Aarhus Convention in Japan (Aarhus Net Japan) was founded in October 2003 for the purpose of ensuring citizens' rights with regard to environmental matters. The organization's action plan is to realize the three rights (access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters) guaranteed by the Aarhus Convention, and its initiatives in this regard include such activities as conducting awareness campaigns and information exchanges concerning the Aarhus Convention and formulating proposals for the establishment of domestic statutes (on a national level) that will meet the standards set out in the Aarhus Convention.

1.1 Organizing Study Meetings

[Overview of the Initiative]

The Aarhus Net Japan organizes, irregularly, study meetings with a view to establishing in Japan three rights guaranteed under the Aarhus Convention: access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

The most recent study meeting was held in September 26, 2014. At this particular meeting what was introduced were the details of the guidelines for the development of national legislation on the public participation principles in environmental matters that had been developed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2010 (the Bali Guidelines), as well as the Environmental Democracy Index developed by The Access Initiative (TAI), an international NGO network. The current status and challenges for the public participation principles in Japan from an international perspective were also reported at the meeting. Our interviews with officials at Aarhus Net Japan show that they are concerned that the three environment-related rights guaranteed under the Aarhus Convention--(i) access to information, (ii) public participation in decision-making, and (iii) access to justice--are not adequately guaranteed in Japan as compared with the other countries. Aarhus Net Japan plans to organize more study meetings with a view to establishing these rights in Japan.

1.2. Producing a pamphlet

[Overview of the Initiative]

Aarhus Net Japan has worked with the Green Access Project at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, Osaka University, to produce an easy-to-understand pamphlet on the Aarhus Convention (see Figure 51).

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

Aarhus Net Japan has produced the pamphlet shown in Figure 1 and distributed copies of it as part of its information campaign.



Figure 51 Pamphlet on the Aarhus Convention

Interview Date, October 20, 2014

2. Shufuren (Japan Housewives' Association)

[About the Organization]

Shufuren (The Japan Housewives' Association) is an association of consumer groups and individual consumers formed in October 1948. The impetus for its formation was the Housewives' Rally to Eliminate Defective Matches (a movement that forced businesses to replace defective matches), which took place the previous month. The organization's action plan consists of activities that are essential to establishing consumers' rights and protecting consumers' lives and livelihood.

2.1. Making Presentations and Requests to the Government

[Overview of the Initiative]

Shufuren makes representations and requests, including submitting written questions, to the national government regarding its policies and measures.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

Some of the recent representations and requests made by Shufuren in relation to chemicals management are shown below. Note that they include those that may be outside the scope of SAICM (e.g., representations and requests relating to food) for reference.

- September 24, 2014: A request to include trans fatty acids as a recommended item for nutritional content labeling
- November 11, 2013: A request on fundamental measures against the practice of misrepresenting food ingredients in menus
- January 24, 2013: A request to improve and strengthen consumer affairs administration
- September 25, 2012: An appeal for a food labeling system as called for by consumers
- September 12, 2012: A request to integrate food labeling from a consumer perspective
- September 28, 2011: A request for effective measures aimed at expanding the use of renewable energy

2.2. Information communication through the bulletin

[Overview of the Initiative]

Shufuren communicates information on latest developments in chemicals management and related risks through its monthly bulletin called "*Shufuren Tayori*."

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

"Q&A on chemical substances" a serial in *Shufuren Tayori*, explains specialized topics on the latest regulatory developments and risks relating to chemicals management in lucid language. The titles of such serial articles in FY2014 are shown below:

- Q&A on chemical substances No. 97: Regulations on household products containing hazardous substances (September 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 96: The truth about "nonionic" surfactants (August 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 95: The secret about "deodorizing agents" in laundry detergents for indoor drying (July 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 94: Antipruritics' side effect of deteriorating itching (June 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 93: Dangerous "inorganic" mercury when breathed in (May 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 92: The effects and limitations of space disinfectants (April 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 91: Dangerous side effects of local anesthetic cream (March 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 90: The dispute over flame retardants in the US may spread to Japan (February 2014)
- Q&A on chemical substances No. 89: Toxicity of so-called "malathion" (January 2014)

Source: *Shufuren Tayori* on the Shufuren website <http://shufuren.net/modules/tinyd5/index.php?id=65>

2.3 Questionnaire Surveys of Consumers

[Overview of the Initiative]

Shufuren conducts questionnaire surveys of consumers on various topics as part of its voluntary research initiative.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

The findings of these surveys are reported in *Shufuren Tayori*. Two of these surveys are outline below:

- ◇ A consumer survey on personal care products (FY2012)

Shufuren conducted a survey on the labeling and ingredients of personal care items such as skin care, hair care, and deodorant products. This survey was conducted at the market and in-store levels.

In order to identify problems, the survey tried to answer three specific questions: (i) After all ingredients of cosmetics were made subject to labeling, are there any changes in the ingredients used as preservatives?; (ii) Are there any problems with the labeling?; and (iii) What information do brick-and-mortar and online shops provide? The findings of the survey will be used for making recommendations and other purposes.

- ◇ A market survey on product safety assessment for toy safety-related standard development (FY2008)

An overwhelming majority of products in the Japanese toy market are manufactured in China and other foreign countries. Some of them are found to contain lead and phthalate esters beyond the permissible levels. However, there is no unified method of specification testing with regard to chemical substances in these imported products.

To make matters worse, a number of inappropriate cases have been reported since July 2008. In some cases, specification testing of tableware and toys requested by the importers (testing under a bilateral contract, rather than testing under the Food Sanitation Law) has not been conducted. In other cases, before such testing, a certificate of test results has been issued and submitted to the relevant quarantine station at the time of import notification.

The Public Notice of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare No.153 of March 31, 2008 amended the provisions under “IV Toys” of the Standards and Criteria for Food and Food Additives, etc. (Public Notice of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare No. 370 of 1959) that define the specifications of toys and their raw materials. As a transitional measure, however, toys newly specified under the amended provisions may be sold even on and after October 1, 2008 if they were domestically manufactured or imported by September 30, 2008.

Under these circumstances, Shufuren bought some toys on the market and asked public testing institutions to examine their chemical safety. It also examined the testing environment and conditions and the examination reports of these institutions and compiled the results into a report.

The toys Shufuren bought are those available on the domestic market and for which many complaints were brought to National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) and the National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan.

2.4 Organizing Study Meetings

[Overview of the Initiative]

Shufuren organizes study meetings on various topics to raise consumers' awareness.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

The following are some of the study meetings on chemicals management organized by Shufuren:

- A study meeting on risk assessment held in April 2013
- A study meeting on children's health and the environment held in December 2010, which helped lead to the launch of the Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS) in FY2011.
- A study tour and meeting at the Misono Purification Plant, which makes "palatable water" with artificial ozone, held in December 2008

2.5 Offering consultations for consumers and holding information meetings with companies

[Overview of the Initiative]

Shufuren offers consultations on chemical substances for consumers. In cooperation with the National Liaison Committee of Consumers' Organizations (Shodanren), Shufuren holds dialogue meetings with companies.

[Initiatives' Outcomes or Progress]

Counselors well-versed in chemical substances at Shufuren respond to the requests for advice from general consumers.

Shufuren also participates in dialogue meetings with companies, which are organized in cooperation with Shodanren.

Interview Date, November 6, 2014

3. Japan Endocrine-disruptor Preventive Action (JEPA)

[About the Organization]

Japan Endocrine-disruptor Preventive Action (JEPA), a non-profit organization, was founded in September 1998 by a group of 50 experts from various walks of life. These founders had responded to a general call from 158 female attorneys from throughout the country to establish of a grass-roots organization for the purpose giving the future back to our children by warding off the ongoing crisis faced by human beings and every other species as a result of pollution by endocrine disruptors. The organization's action plan consists of bringing together people who will set aside their interests and differences and use their combined intelligence to come up with appropriate policy proposals that will influence public opinion and thus lead the government to adopt effective policies in this regard.

3.1 Organizing Lecture Meetings on the Effects of Chemical Substances on Human Health

[Overview of the Initiative]

JEPA organizes international citizens' seminars on the effects of chemical substances on human health. These seminars are made up of two parts: a set of lectures for experts and one for the general public.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

On November 15 and 16, 2014, JEPA organized an international citizens' seminar on the effects of chemical substances on the next generation. The lecturers included Dr. Bruce Blumberg, Professor at the University of California, Irvine; Dr. Andreas Kortenkamp, Professor at Brunel University London; and other eminent persons.

The outline of the seminar is shown below:

- ◇ November 15, 2014: International citizens' seminar I (for experts) "What will become of the EU regulations on endocrine disruptors and what should we do? Input from Dr. Kortenkamp, one of the leading authorities on endocrine disruptors who authored reports for EU and WHO."
 - Lecture 1: "How does the EU intend to regulate endocrine disruptors?" by Dr. Andreas Kortenkamp, Professor in Human Toxicology at the Institute of Environment, Health and Societies, Brunel University London
Building on his experience in playing an important role in establishing EU regulations on endocrine disruptors, Dr. Kortenkamp made specific suggestions on how chemical substances should be managed based on the precautionary principle.
 - Lecture 2: "How endocrine disruptors are regulated in the United States" by Dr. Bruce Blumberg, Professor of Developmental & Cell Biology, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine
 - Q&A and discussions

- ◇ November 16, 2014: International citizens' seminar II (for the general public): "Thoughts on how chemical substances affect the next generation, with focus placed on their effects on the intrauterine environment for the fetus and its subsequent development"
 - Lecture 1: "A false belief in bearing small and raising big; the nutrient environment for the fetus causing disease later in its life" by Hideoki Fukuoka, MD, Professor at the Research Council, Waseda University
Japanese women' desires to stay thin have pushed Japan far ahead of other developed countries in terms of the proportion of low birth weight children. This in turn has resulted in the spread of lifestyle-related diseases among the Japanese, warned Dr. Fukuoka. He then explained the importance of nutritional management during pregnancy.

- Lecture 2: “The effects of endocrine disruptors on the fetus; endocrine disruptions during the fetal period causing obesity” by Dr. Bruce Blumberg, Professor of Developmental & Cell Biology, School of Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine
Dr. Blumberg warned about the effects of foreign chemical substances on the fetal environment. He pointed out that the effects of endocrine disruptors during the period when the fetus develops itself cause after-birth ailments, including obesity.
- Lecture 3: “Learning from EU regulations on endocrine disruptors; how chemical substances harmful to the fetus should be regulated” by Dr. Andreas Kortenkamp, Professor in Human Toxicology at the Institute of Environment, Health and Societies, Brunel University London
How should society regulate chemical substances that are harmful to the fetus? Building on his experience in playing an important role in establishing EU regulations on endocrine disruptors, Dr. Kortenkamp made specific suggestions on how chemical substances should be managed based on the precautionary principle.

3.2 Preparing Booklets and Pamphlets

[Overview of the Initiative]

JEPA issues thematic booklets and pamphlets on the effects of harmful chemical substances on human health.

[Initiative’s Outcomes or Progress]

The booklets JEPA has issued so far (all in Japanese) are enumerated below:

1. “Protecting children from chemical pollution,” 2003, Rev. ed. in 2006 (stockout)
Effects on children in the development stage / Children’s lives and chemical substances / Countermeasures and civic movements
2. “Dioxins in food: How can we protect ourselves from Dioxins?” 2003
Is it safe to eat fish? / Dioxins in seafood / Where do Dioxins in seafood come from and what can we do about it? / Diet and Dioxins / For pregnant women and nursing mothers as well as young women / Conclusion
3. “Are you using household products without knowing the risks involved?” Rev. ed. issued as the booklet shown in 8. below.
4. “Why Japan could not stop industrial environmental pollution: pursuing the application of the precautionary principle,” 2005
Why the precautionary principle now? / Industrial environmental pollution in Japan and the precautionary principle / What is the precautionary principle? / Suggestions
5. “Asbestos in your life: are you inhaling it without knowing the risks involved?” 2007
Developments in the asbestos problem / Health hazards of asbestos / Measures against asbestos and their effectiveness / Where is asbestos used? / How should you cope with asbestos? / Our suggestions
6. “Where are toxic metals?: What can we do to protect children from them?” 2009
What are toxic metals? / Some typical toxic metals / What can be learned from hair examinations of mothers and children / Current laws and regulations on toxic metals / Our suggestions
7. “Multiple chemical sensitivity: the forefront of its treatment and research,” 2010
A report on an international seminar on multiple chemical sensitivity / Dispute settlement cases concerning multiple chemical sensitivity and the sick building syndrome / Appendix: bibliography on a list of literature addressing multiple chemical sensitivity and the sick building syndrome
8. “Are you using household products without knowing the risks involved? Hazardous substances in household products,” Rev. ed. 2012
To reducing risks associated with household products / Let’s check the hazards of products! / Let’s learn how society works! / Laws and regulations on chemical substances / Our suggestions

Interview Date, October 28, 2014

4. Japan Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU)

[About the Organization]

The Japan Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU), a nationwide association of consumers' co-operatives ("Co-ops") and unions of Co-ops from throughout the country, was founded in March 1951 as a Japanese nationwide consumer movement aiming for "peace and a better life." As of the end of fiscal 2014, it was Japan's largest consumer organization, with membership consisting of 330 Co-ops with an aggregate business turnover of ¥3.3 trillion and 27.7 million individual members.

The JCCU's action plan consists of aiding the development of its members by supporting their activities and businesses and by developing proprietary products and supplying (selling) these products to member co-ops, as well as acting as the central body for Co-ops nationwide in such endeavors as interacting with various bodies, broadening the public's understanding of Co-ops, and proposing policies that aim to improve social system.

4.1 Providing Information for Consumers

[Overview of the Initiative]

JCCU generally focuses on food and dietary life. Some of its activities are outside the scope of SAICM. However, it is deemed to contribute to SAICM in that its provision of information for consumers helps them deepen their understanding of the concept of "risk." From this perspective, some of the JCCU initiatives are shown below:

4.1-1) Information provision via the Internet

[Overview of the Initiative]

Having an extensive network involving consumers, JCCU proactively provides information for consumers through various media.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

◇ Q&A on food safety

This webpage provides information on chemical substances in food, food additives, and packaging. The information thus provided is classified by theme and issue. For each substance, the webpage explains a number of aspects--ranging from the uses, exposure pathway, and safety to the background to the substance having attracted social attention, as well as what consumers should be cautious about--in a way that is easy to understand for those with no special knowledge.



Figure 52 Q&A on the bisphenol A issue

Source: "Q&A on food safety" on the JCCU website http://jccu.coop/food-safety/qa/qa02_03.html

◇ Q&A on Co-op brand products

This webpage answers questions that are frequently asked by consumer members on Co-op brand products. It is designed for easy access to the information consumers want to know. Questions and answers are shown, for example, under such headings as “most frequently asked questions at this time of year” and “most viewed questions.” They are also organized according to product category from a consumer perspective. For example, if you select the “household products” category, you will see Q&A on the uses of insect repellents and the environmental impact of oxygen bleach, among other topics.



Figure 53 Q&A on Co-op brand products

Source: Q&A on Co-op brand products on the JCCU website <http://goods.jccu.coop/faq/>

◇ Q&A on food in general

This webpage is aimed at facilitating communication on food in general. It provides information by answering questions frequently asked by consumer members. The page is designed for consumers to readily find the information they need. For example, the information is organized according to “what’s on your mind” (agricultural chemicals, labeling, how to use, etc.) and “food type.” It allows them to deepen their understanding about food on their own accord.

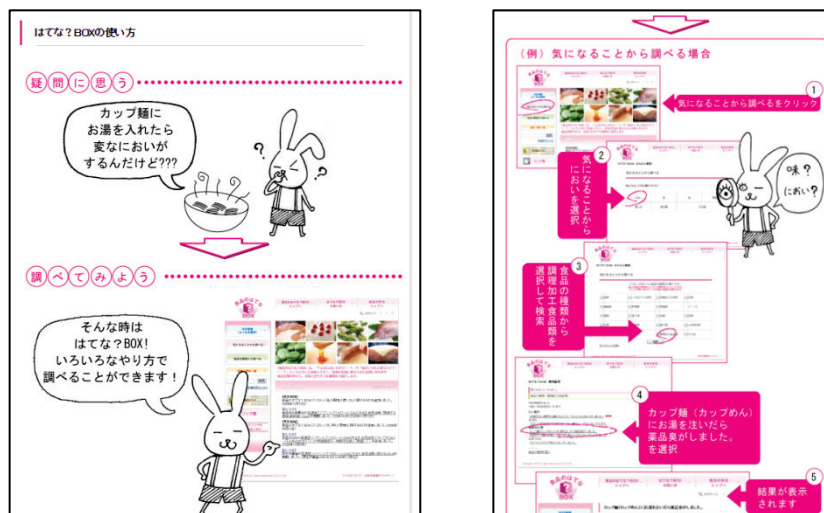


Figure 54 How to use “Q&A on food in general”

Source: "Q&A on food in general" on the JCCU website <http://jccu.coop/food-safety/hatenabox/how.html>

4.1-2) Risk communication activities at the local level

[Overview of the Initiative]

JCCU and community-based co-ops work to deepen interactive communication with co-op members and consumers at large.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

✧ Activities of U Co-op (a co-op active in Kanagawa, Shizuoka, and Yamanashi Prefectures)

U Co-op places special emphasis on information sharing; i.e., communication. As part of its efforts to deepen communication with its members and consumers at large, U Co-op manages a Risk Communication Committee and organizes open symposia.

- Risk Communication Committee

The Risk Communication Committee provides a forum where U Co-op and its members, manufacturers, and third-party eminent persons, and government officials present information from their respective standpoints and exchange views on various questions and concerns, notably “topics on the lips of many people” and “things on many people’s minds” for better mutual understanding.

- Open symposia

Apart from the Risk Communication Committee, U Co-op organizes symposia to learn about and exchange views on the latest information on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and US-made beef as well as on the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP). It also holds study meetings to think continuously about food safety.

Source: U Co-op website http://www.ucoop.or.jp/anshin/risk_com/

✧ Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union

The Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union has worked with other organizations within Gunma Prefecture to establish the “Network of Gunma Prefecture residents for food safety and assurance.” This network regularly organizes “Risk Communication Seminars” as a collaborative project with the Gunma Prefectural Government.

For example, a lecturer in one of these seminars explained the following points:

- Any food has risk factors; no food is free from risks. With this in mind, it is important to assess and manage such risks scientifically.
- A problem with risk perception is that consumers may not feel *assured* even though they know the food in question is *safe* in their minds. *Safety* (the state where there are only minimal risks based on scientific assessment) can be combined with *confidence* to produce *assurance* (the state of mind where consumers are convinced that there are only minimal risks). What dictates the key factor of confidence?

Source: The website of the Gunma Consumers' Co-operative Union (Gunma COOP)

http://gunma.kenren-coop.jp/news/120301_01.html

◇ Kyoto Co-op (in the Kyoto Consumer' Co-operative Union)

As a member of the Kyoto Consumer' Co-operative Union, Kyoto Co-op organizes study meetings on food additives, agricultural chemicals, and other concerns surrounding food safety. These meetings are designed for Kyoto Co-op to provide basic information on these concerns, articulate its stances on food additives among other concerns, and identify current issues surrounding food, all based on scientific evidence.

Source: The Kyoto Co-op website http://www.kyoto.coop/newslog/2013/07/post_833.php

◇ F Co-op (Fukuoka Prefecture)

F Co-op holds an “Food Safety Association” once or twice a year. This meeting provides a risk communication forum where F Co-op members, producers, food-related business operators, experts, and government officials offer information from their respective standpoints and exchange views on risks that may be generated in food or in the process of handling food. This meeting has been held since 2003. The input that has been provided in this meeting and needs to be addressed is referred to the Board of Directors and other relevant units of F Co-op for operational improvement and new activities.

Source : The F Co-op website <http://www.fcoop.or.jp/goods/anzen/index.html>

4.2 Submitting Comments and Making Policy Recommendations to the National Government

4.2-1) Submitting public comments and making policy recommendations

[Overview of the Initiative]

JCCU proactively submits comments as called for by concerned government offices to improve public administration in food safety. The Safety Policy Service of JCCU, a unit made up of employees with special knowledge, is responsible for this activity. In submitting such comments, this unit seeks advice from university faculty members and other researchers as necessary.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

Some of the comments JCCU submitted in FY2013 and FY2014 in relation to chemicals management are enumerated below. Note that they include comments regarding food.

◇ FY2013

- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on Asparaginase produced using *Aspergillus niger* ASP-72 strain (Food Additives)”, submitted on November 20, 2013
- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on β -apo-8'-carotenal (Food Additives)”, submitted on October 29, 2013
- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on ethoxyquin (Feed Additives, Pesticide)”, submitted on September 20, 2013
- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on Advantame (Food Additives)”, submitted on June 25, 2013
- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on polyvinylpyrrolidone (Food Additives)”, submitted on June 25, 2013

◇ FY2014

- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on thiabendazole (Food Additives, Pesticides, Veterinary Medicinal Product), an agricultural chemical (germicide), and a veterinary medicinal product (parasiticide)”, submitted on September 18, 2014
- A public comment to “draft Risk Assessment Report on 2,3-Diethylpyrazine (Food Additives)”, submitted on July 11, 2014

Source: The JCCU website http://jccu.coop/food-safety/opinion/opinion_top.html

4.2-1) Submitting comments to prefectural governments on their basic plans for food safety

[Overview of the Initiative]

Community-based co-ops submit comments on draft plans for the monitoring of and guidance on food sanitation of the prefectural governments concerned.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

As of April 11, 2014, consumers' cooperatives across Japan had submitted comments on draft plans for the monitoring of and guidance on food sanitation of 22 prefectural governments and 19 municipalities in response to the request for public comments that was made by these governments at the end of FY2013, according to the JCCU members' activity department.

4.3 Developing Human Resources

[Overview of the Initiative]

JCCU holds a regular seminar primarily for those who are involved in the planning of members' activities or who speak on behalf of consumers at councils and view exchange meetings. This seminar is designed for the participants to learn necessary information and exchange views and information among them. The idea is for leading co-op members to deepen their understanding about risks and develop their capacity to serve as risk communicators in their respective communities.

The themes of the seminar revolve around food; some of them are outside the scope of SAICM. However, training risk communicators who are well-versed in the concept of "risk" is deemed to contribute to SAICM. From this perspective, the following paragraphs introduce JCCU's initiatives in human resources development (HRD).

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

On July 23, 2014, JCCU held a food safety seminar consisting of didactic lectures and group discussions on two themes: (i) food labeling, and (ii) food risk analysis. The seminar was attended by 29 people, including consumer members and staff members of co-ops across the country who are responsible for planning members' activities, as well as their board members who had been elected from among the consumer members. This seminar's program is outlined below:

- ◇ Didactic lecture I: "Food labeling: recent developments and challenges ahead" by the head of the Safety Policy Service of JCCU
 - The lecture explained various issues with food labeling, with special emphasis on the indication of the places of production of ingredients, while referring to what had led to a spate of food mislabeling cases the previous year.
- ◇ Group discussion I: "What food labeling should be like from a consumer perspective"
 - The participants discussed such topics as what food labeling should be like for securing food safety and assurance and what kind of food labeling consumers need.
- ◇ Didactic lecture II: "Safety assessment of food additives: assessment bases on risk analysis and how consumers should be involved" by the Director General of the Food Safety Commission Secretariat
 - Two years earlier, JCCU formulated a policy on the safety of chemical substances in food such as food additives. In response, member co-ops reviewed their standards for food additives. Due in part to the developments surrounding food additives hitherto, not a few members wanted to be more careful about them. Accordingly, the lecturer explained how the current assessment mechanism works and what should be done for the future.

- ◇ Group discussion I: “What consumer should address in the issue of food additives and food safety”
 - The participants discussed such topics as how food additives should be used, if any, and what consumer can do about the issue.

4.4 Improving the labeling on products based on inquiries and input from consumer members [Overview of the Initiative]

JCCU makes improvements to the labeling on the products it deals in, based on inquiries and input on their usability and labeling.

Some of these improvements do not necessarily relate to chemicals management. However, efforts to improve the labeling on products based on input from consumers can be good practices for product labeling concerning chemical substances. Accordingly, a few such cases are outlined below:

[Initiative’s Outcomes or Progress]

The following are four of the cases in which the labeling on products has been improved based on input from consumer members.

- ◇ How to use a mothball product
 - After many inquiries were made about the number of pieces to be used and the applications of the products, JCCU improved the labeling so that it clearly shows how to use the product and how much, as well as its applicability to Japanese traditional clothing (Figure 55).

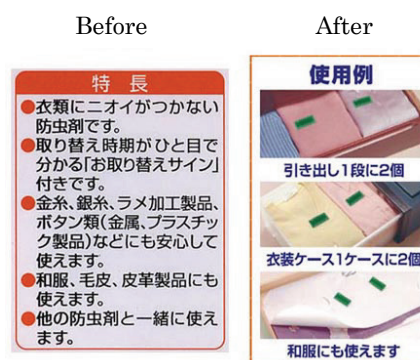


Figure 55 Changing the label on a mothball product

Source: The JCCU website http://goods.jccu.coop/feature/improve/detail/post_181.php

- ◇ Improving the “open” sign on the milk carton
 - Many members complained that the opening side was so unclear that they had mistakenly opened the carton from the opposite side. In response, JCCU enlarged the “open” sign and change its color to red to make it more conspicuous.
- ◇ Improving the nutrition labeling on an instant noodle product
 - In response to health-conscious members, JCCU indicated the calories and the table salt equivalent amount for the noodles and the soup separately (Figure 56).

標準栄養成分表		1食(94g)当たり	
エネルギー:		418	kcal
たん白質:		7.7	g
脂 質:		17.6	g
炭水化物:		57.2	g
ナトリウム:		2.3	g
	(めん)	0.9	g
	(スープ)	1.4	g
カルシウム:		135	mg

※参考値:		エネルギー		食塩相当量	
調理直後に	めん	371	kcal	2.2	g
分別して分析	スープ	47	kcal	3.6	g
	合計	418	kcal	5.8	g

Figure 56 Improving the nutrition labeling on an instant noodle product

Source: The JCCU website http://goods.jccu.coop/feature/improve/detail/post_139.php

- ◇ Making a cosmetic bottle more resistant to tipping over
 - Many members complained that the bottle of a cosmetic product tipped over easily. In response, JCCU enlarged the bottom in design to make it more resistant to tipping over.

Interview Date, October 29, 2014

5. Toxic Watch Network Japan (T-Watch)

[About the Organization]

Toxic Watch Network Japan (T-Watch), a non-profit organization, was founded in April 2002 by volunteers from various types of grass-roots and other organizations for the purpose of providing information on chemical substances, and especially on PRTR, to citizens who are laypeople. The impetus for its founding was the inauguration of the PRTR program in fiscal 2001.

T-Watch's action plan consists of providing citizens with easy to understand information on PRTR and other chemical substances primarily via its website, from a neutral point of view, taking citizens' perspectives into account. More recently, it has also conducted fact-finding investigations on pollution by toxic chemical substances and radiation as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake and published the results of those investigations.

5.1 Organizing citizens' seminars

[Overview of the Initiative]

T-Watch organizes citizens' seminars, albeit irregularly. In these meetings, lecturers invited from other countries report on the latest trends, following by discussions open to the floor.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

In August 2004, T-Watch sent a study mission to North America, which visited NGOs on the US West Coast and in Washington D.C. to learn about their activities and interact with them. Some of the past activities of T-Watch in this field are listed below:

Table 13 Citizens' seminars organized by T-Watch

May 2011	General meeting commemorative symposium: "Efforts for 'citizens' right to know' concerning chemical substances in Asia and potentials for cooperation among NGOs"
May 2010	Briefing session: "Reporting on T-Watch's interactions with NGOs overseas with focus on chemicals management policies in Asia"
September 2009	International citizens' seminar: How to proceed with international regulations on mercury: attempts in Japan and Asia
February 2009	International citizens' seminar: "Asia and Japan (2): How to manage chemical substances and how to work together"
November 2008	International citizens' seminar: "Asia and Japan: How to manage chemical substances and how to work together"
May 2007	Lecture meeting: "Chemicals management systems in Asian countries today"
March 2007	International citizens' seminar: "REACH--the new regulation on chemical substances in Europe--and where Japan and the US are headed on chemical substances" (joint seminar)

5.2 Consecutive study meetings on PRTR

[Overview of the Initiative]

T-Watch organizes consecutive study meetings on PRTR. These meetings provide information on PRTR and the most recent developments surrounding chemical substances.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

The consecutive study meetings on PRTR are listed in Table 2 below:

Table 14 Consecutive study meetings on PRTR organized by T-Watch

March 2015	Review meeting on the 13th compiled data released by the national government
April 2014	Review meeting on the 12th compiled data released by the national government
March 2013	Review meeting on the 11th compiled data released by the national government
May 2012	Symposium: Risk communication on PRTR: A ten-year history and the future
March 2012	Review meeting on the 10th compiled data released by the national government
July 2011	Study meeting on chemical releases due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the PRTR system
March 2011	Review meeting on the 9th compiled data released by the national government
May 2010	Symposium: "To what extent is PRTR data utilized now?"
March 2010	Review meeting on the 8th compiled data released by the national government
June 2009	Systems for Calculation, Reporting and Public Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
May 2009	Where will the initiatives to realize an Earth free from chemical pollution as seen in COP4 and ICCM2 regarding POPs go?
March 2009	Review meeting on the 7th compiled data released by the national government
May 2008	What should be done about chemicals management? Suggestions from citizens towards amending the Chemical Substances Control Law
March 2008	Review meeting on the 6th compiled data released by the national government
March 2007	Review meeting on the 5th compiled data released by the national government
February 2007	Ink and the printing industry
September 2006	Symposium: What should be done about chemicals management in Japan?--Suggestions from citizens
May 2006	PRTR and risk communication

5.3 International interaction

[Overview of the Initiative]

T-Watch is engaged in international interaction through various activities.

[Initiative's Outcomes or Progress]

T-Watch participated in ICCM2 as a Japanese NGO among the IPEN Participating Organizations in May 2009. In September 2012, it took part in ICCM3 as well.

Interview Date, October 28, 2014

