



***Japan's Experience
in
Waste Management and Recycling***

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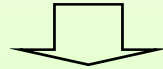
Waste Management and Recycling Department
Ministry of the Environment Japan



Reforming waste management in Japan

Japan Was Faced With Serious Waste Issues

- Past policy measures of waste management were far from adequate. A “sweep the trouble under the carpet” attitude prevailed.
- The “cheaper but worse” style was common in waste treatment.



Huge-scale illegal dumping of waste Accumulation of hazardous waste such as PCB

[Improper waste management
by open incineration]



[Huge-scale illegal waste dumping]



[Improper storage of PCB waste]



Source: Ministry of the Environment

Japan's Reform of Waste Management and Recycling

Reform in the past decade

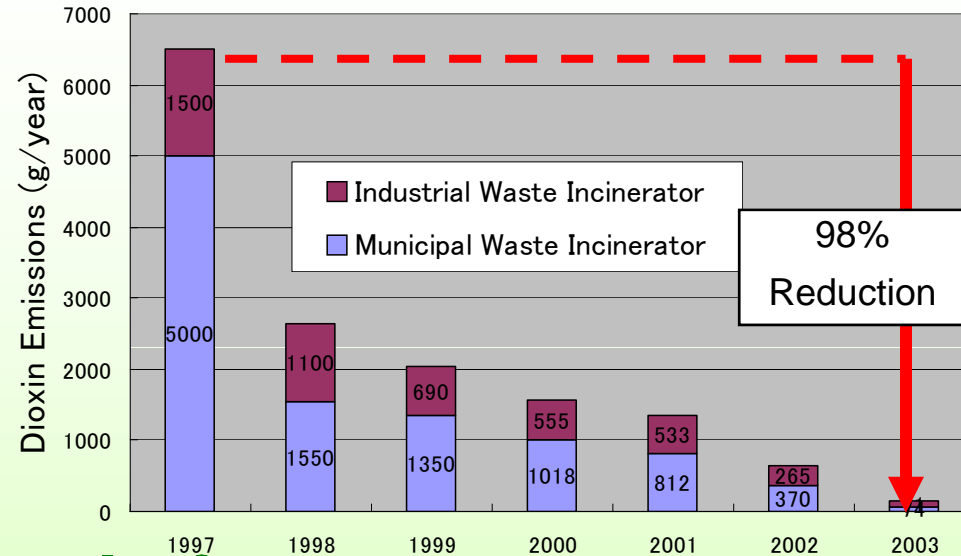
- Adherence to the principle that the producers of waste should bear a responsibility for waste disposal through the amendment of the Waste Management Law
- Introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility and legislation with regards recycling
- Drastic reduction of dioxins emitted from incinerators
- Establishment of a scheme for PCB treatment
- Establishment of the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle (SMC) Society and the Basic Plan for Establishing a SMC Society

The above reform was achieved through the actions of key bodies such as national and local governments, private companies, research institutions and NGO/NPOs.

Japan is going to disseminate its own experiences to the world.

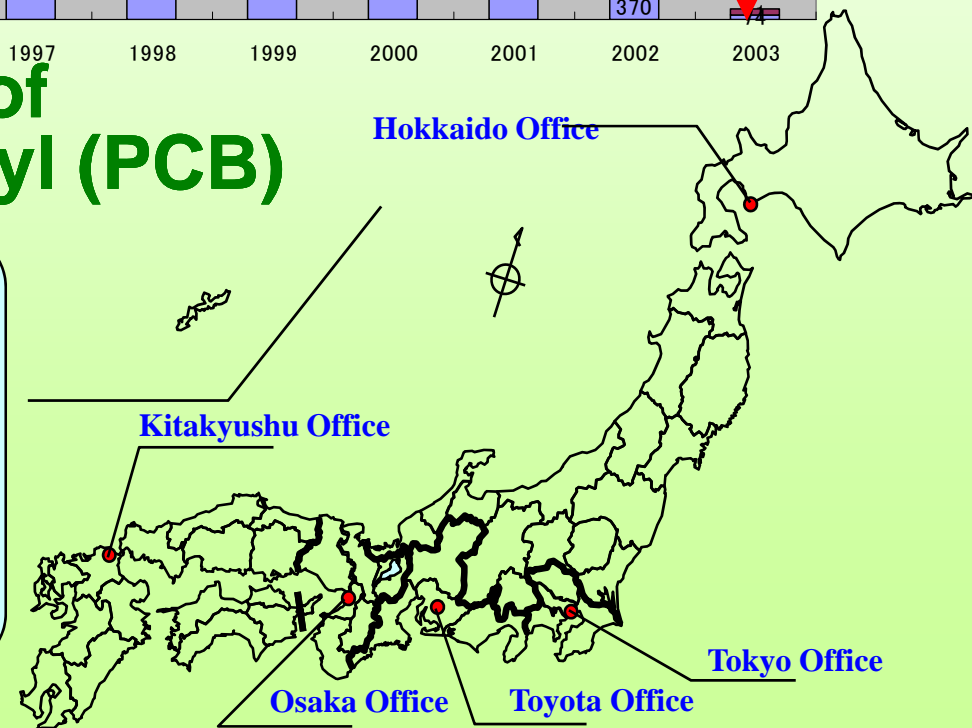
Reduction of **dioxin** emission / Proper disposal of **PCB**

Dioxin Emissions from Waste Incinerators



Proper disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)

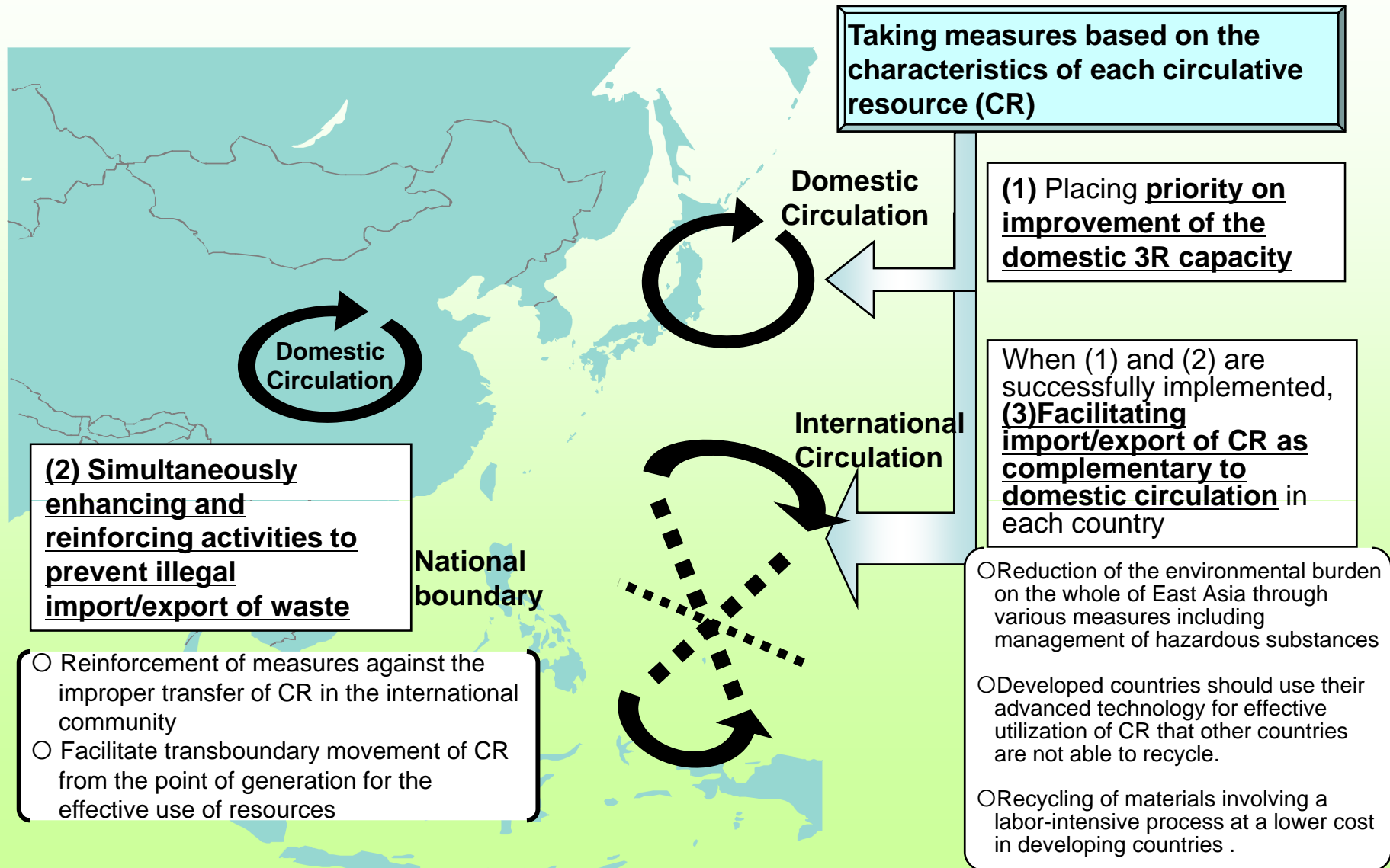
- Establishment of a legislative system for the purpose of proper disposal of PCB waste
- Japan Environmental Safety Corporation (JESCO) prepared facilities to treat high-pressure transformers that contain high densities of PCB in 5 big cities.





**Construction
of
an international
sound material-cycle
society**

Conceptual Image of an International Sound Material Cycle Society



Source: documents from the Central Environmental Council

International Efforts to Promote the 3R Initiative

“3Rs” means **Reduce** waste generation, **Reuse** and **Recycle** products and resources





3R Promotion in Asia

Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan

Issues

Increase of waste generation and diversification of waste characteristics Increase in transboundary movement of recyclable resources Higher price of resources

Approach

Promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and Environmentally Sound Management of Waste
⇒ More efficient use of resources and materials and Reduction of environmental impact

Actions

Asia Conference for 3R Promotion

October 30-November 1, 2006, Tokyo
Agenda: 3Rs Promotion, Organic waste, E-waste, Medical waste

Sound Management of E-Waste

- Implementing the Action Plan on Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste in the Asia-Pacific region
- Examining Asian recycling scheme of used electrical appliances

Regional Forum on Environment and Health

Launching Thematic Working Group on Solid and Hazardous Waste

3R National Strategy Making

- Support a 3R National Strategy Making in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.
- JICA study on national waste minimization in Malaysia

Prevention of illegal trade

- Asian network for the prevention of the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes
- Drafting International Guideline for environmentally sound import and export of recyclables

Disseminating Japan's Experiences

Publishing a report on Japan's experience in waste management and recycling policies

Building knowledge and technical basis

- Support for the 3R Knowledge Hub
- Assistance in establishing experts networks in Asia and the Pacific

Collaboration with International Organizations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation in the 21st Century

Japan's Strategy for a Sustainable Society (Decided by Cabinet on June 1 2007)

Strategy 3 Creation of Sustainable Material-Cycles through the 3Rs

(1) Actions for creating a sound material-cycle society in Asia

- *Share Japan's 3R systems, technologies, and experiences with the world
- *Establish an international knowledge hub and common standards for the 3Rs
- *Articulate a vision for a sound material-cycle society in East Asia aiming at creating such a society in East Asia.

(2) Upgrade Japan's 3R technologies and systems

- *Minimize the input of natural resources and the environmental load throughout a product's life cycle
- *Promote resource circulation that matches the substance types at the local, national and regional level
- *Create a socio-economic system that encourages the spirit of "mottainai"

(3) Contribute to mitigating climate change through the 3Rs

- *Ensure the recovery of energy from wastes
- *Utilize waste-based biomass

(4) Promote the 3R Initiative, advocated by Japan, in the G8 process

- *Contribute to resource productivity improvement led by the G8
- *Revise the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society and promote the 3Rs throughout the international community.