

# Water Environment Management in Japan

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August 2012

WEPA Dialogue in Sri Lanka

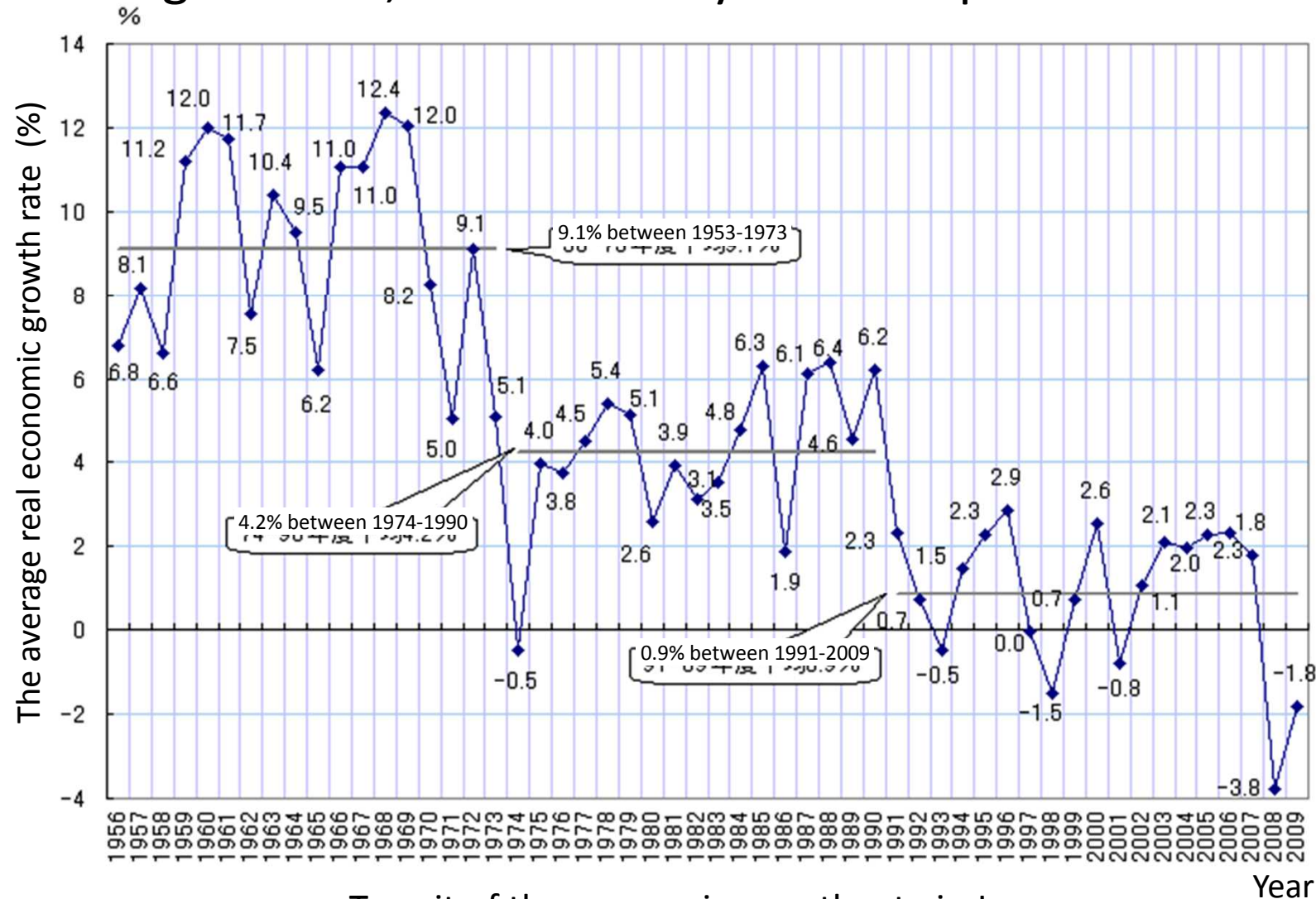
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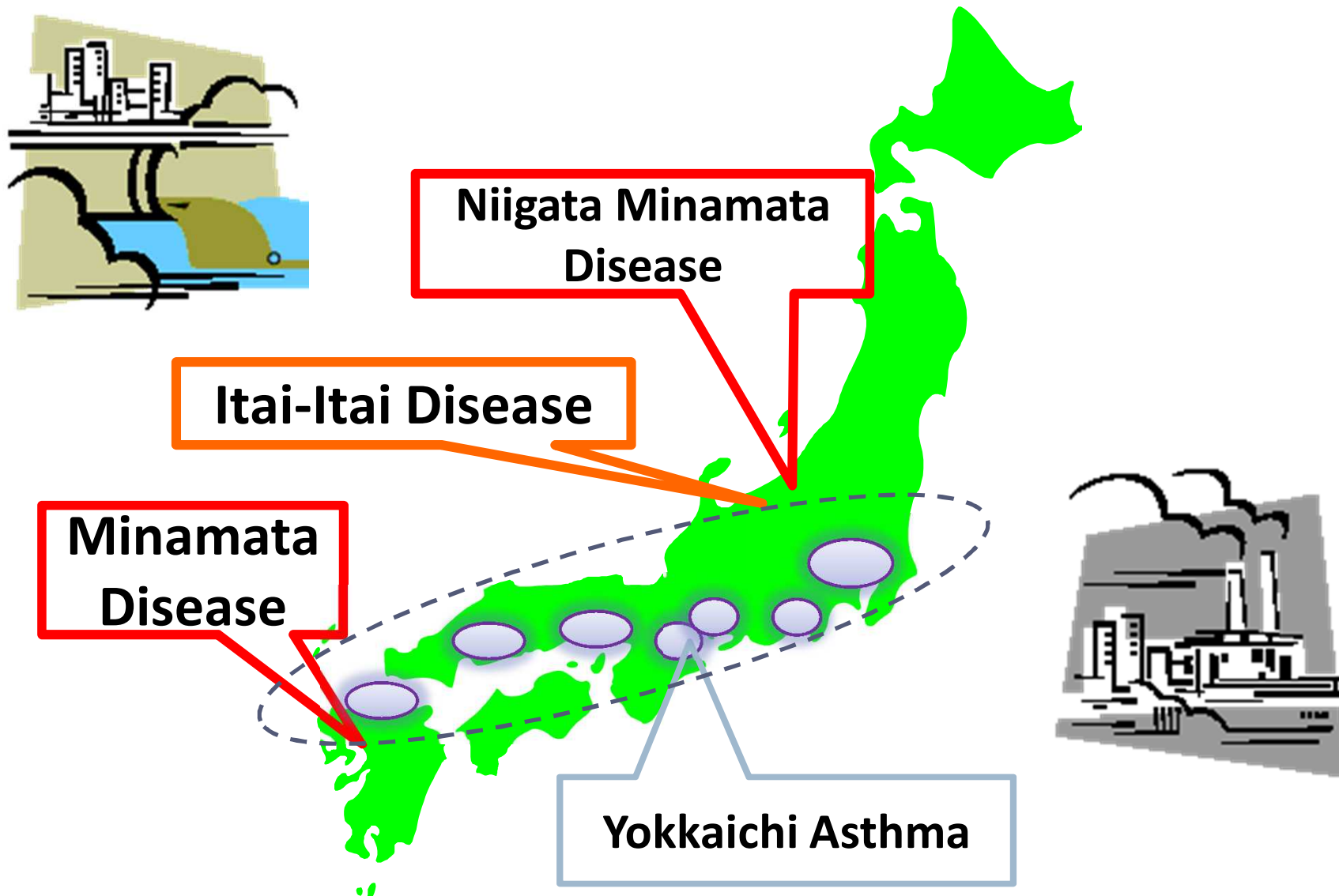
# Japanese rapid economic growth

- The average real economic growth rate marked 9.1% through 1950's, 60's and early 70's in Japan



Transit of the economic growth rate in Japan

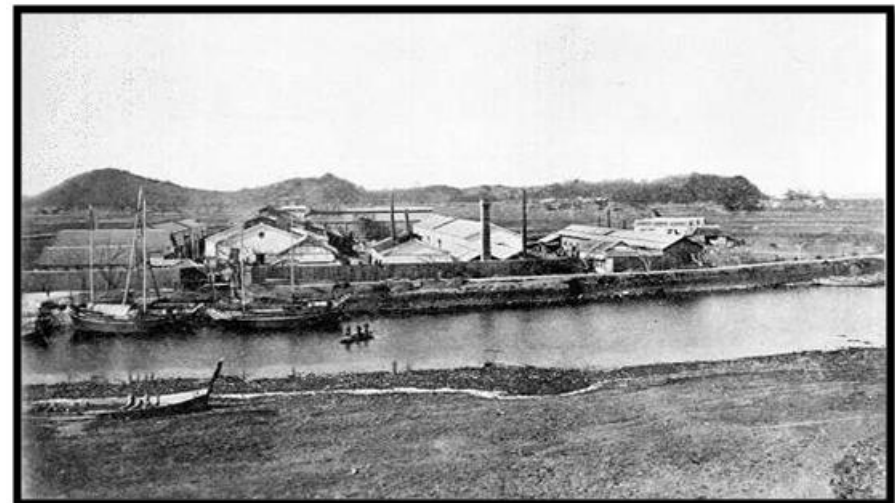
# Four Major Pollution Issues



- Minamata Disease

- ◆ Found in Minamata city, Kumamoto in 1956
- ◆ Causality:  
“Methyl Mercury” contained in effluent from chemical factories
- ◆ Main symptoms:  
Paresthesia of limbs, ataxia, narrowed visual field, auditory disorder, disorder of equilibrium, language disorder
- ◆ Victims certified in law: about 3,000 person
- ◆ Estimated Damage  
(Health, Fishery etc)  
\$4,510 million (estimated)

- Same damage  
founded in Niigata



## ● Itai-Itai Disease

- ◆ Found in Jintsugawa river basin in Toyama Prefecture in 1955
- ◆ Causality:  
“**Cadmium**” contained in untreated effluent from Mines
- ◆ Main symptoms:  
Kidney damages and softening of bone caused by consumption of food contaminated by Cadmium
- ◆ Victims certified in law: about 200 person
- ◆ Estimated Damage  
(Health, Agriculture etc)  
: **\$ 603 million** (estimated)



Source: Yomiuri Newspaper



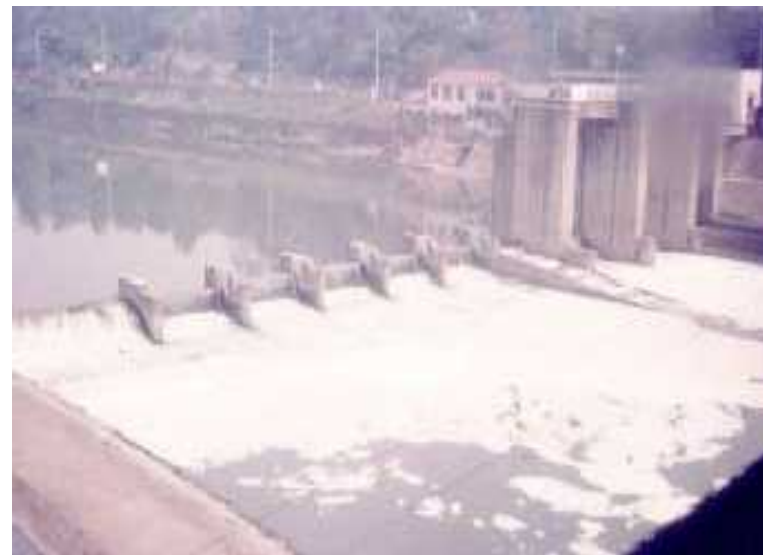
# Deterioration of water in public water body



Sumida river in early 70's (Tokyo)



Dokai bay in '60s (Kitakyushu city)



Tama River in '70's (Tokyo)

## Basic law for environmental pollution control (1967)

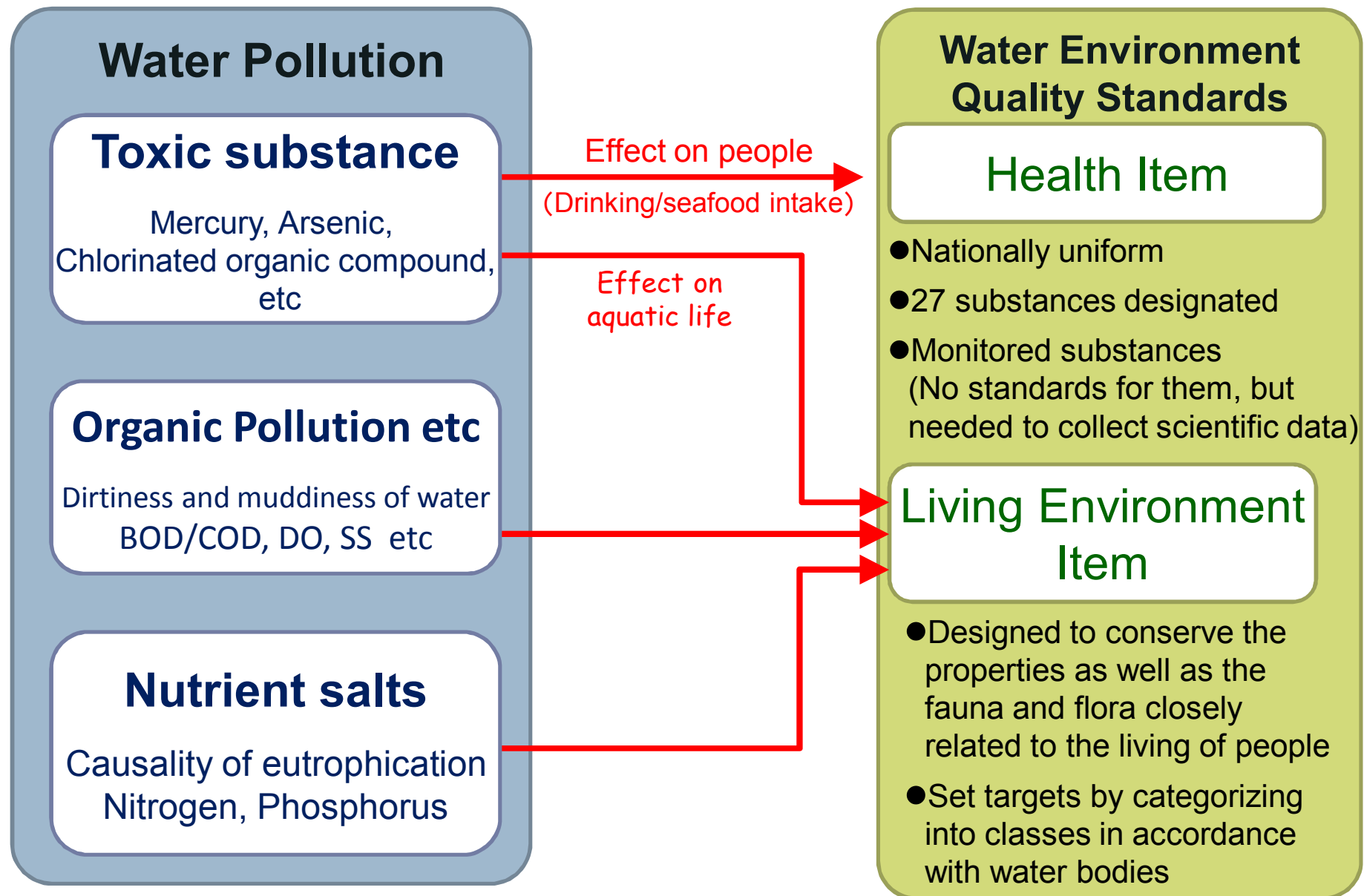
✕ Replaced by the basic environment law in 1993

- ◆ **Establishment of Environmental Quality Standard (EQS)**
  - EQS for the protection of human health (Health Item)
  - EQS for the conservation of the living environment (Living Environment Item)

## Water Pollution Control Law (1970)

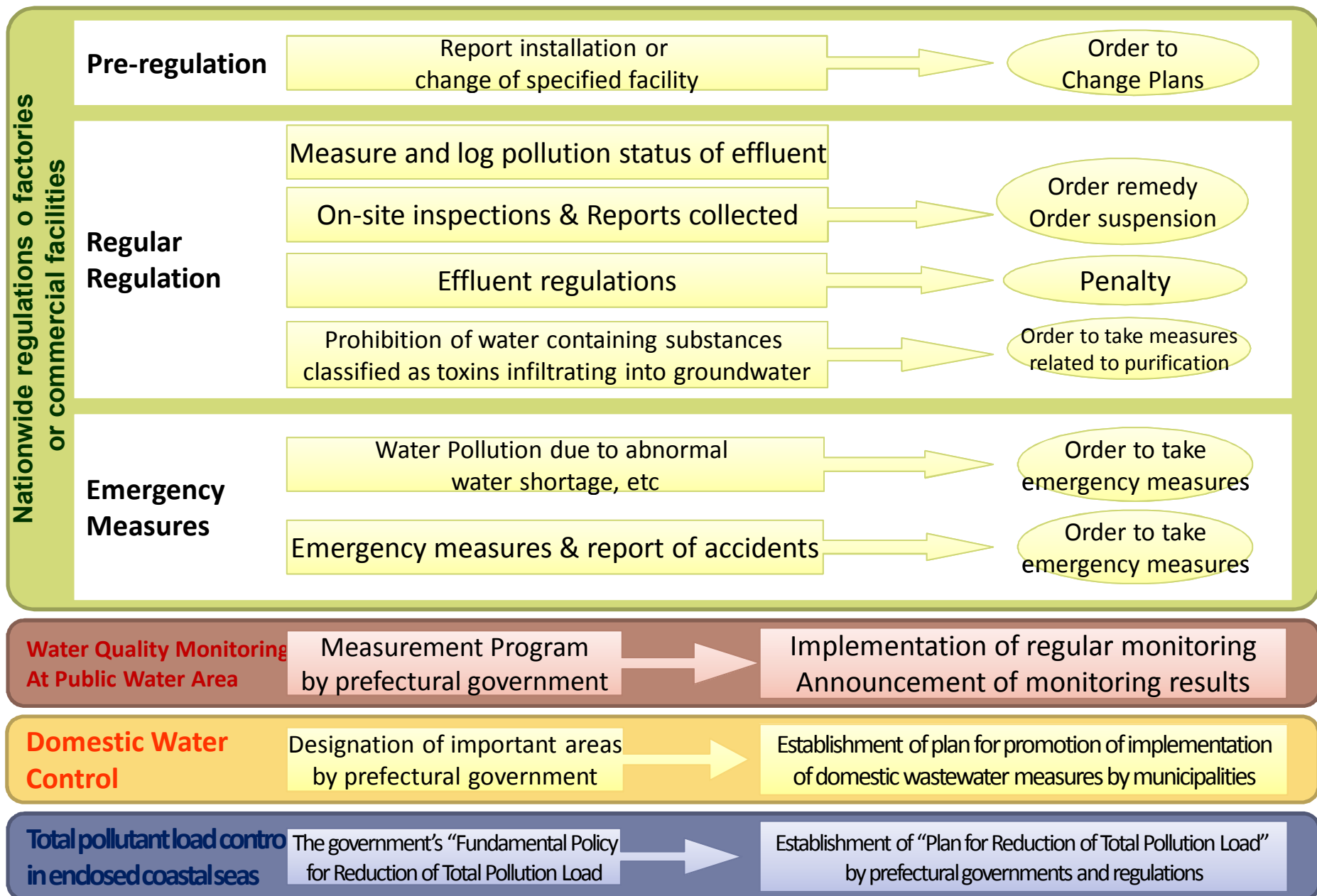
- ◆ **Overcoming “Follow-up” approach**
  - From designation of regulation area to national uniform regulation
  - Unified national effluent standards + more at local level, if needed
- ◆ **Tightening of regulations for compliance**
  - Direct penalty for non-compliance of effluent standards
- ◆ **Unification of law system in principle**
  - Unification of effluent standards for all business (with some exceptions)

# Water Environment Quality Standards (EQS)





# How the Water Pollution Control Law Works



# WATER QUALITY MONITORING

## Purpose

- Getting a full understanding of the status of water pollution in public waters and underground water, and implementing control measures for the prevention of water pollution in appropriate ways.

## Monitoring System

### Continuous Monitoring of Water Quality (Prefectures, etc.)

- Monitoring the pollution of water in the environment plays a very important role in getting the basic data for the planning of water environment administration.
- It should be carried out throughout the country uniformly and with accuracy. The national government is required to implement this task with responsibility.
- However, the continuous monitoring of water quality is delegated to prefectural governors, as it is appropriate to conduct it based on the understanding of the local conditions and with mobility.
- It is conducted on the basis of the uniform idea shown by the nation

### Monitoring of Effluent

- (to be Implemented by Specified Establishments on their own)

# Monitoring System

Public waters (river, lake, sea) about 9,000 spots throughout the country (environmental standards points, etc.) and the water quality in ground water is monitored.

- Understanding of the water quality characteristics of water area
- Understanding of long-term changes & water quality trends
- Early detection of water pollution

- Achievement & maintenance of environmental standard for water quality
- Implementation of environmental protection measures
- Response to water pollution incidents

## Government ordinance city

(Water quality measurement in the government ordinance city)

- Water quality measurement
- Results of water quality measurements

## Prefecture

(Water quality measurement of river, lake, sea and underground water)

### Formulation of water quality measurement plan

Formulated in order to coordinate with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and government ordinance city and to effectively conduct continuous monitoring of water quality.

### Water quality measurement

- Health items (cadmium, all cyanogen, etc.)
- Living environment items (BOD, COD, all zinc, etc.)

### Water Sampling



### Analysis



## Ministry of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism

(Water quality measurement of the main parts of first-grade rivers)

- Water quality measurement
- Results of water quality measurements

### Information disclosure

- ◆ White paper ◆ Websites ◆ Results of water quality measurement

Water environmental synthesis information site  
<http://www.env.go.jp/water/mizu.site/index.html>

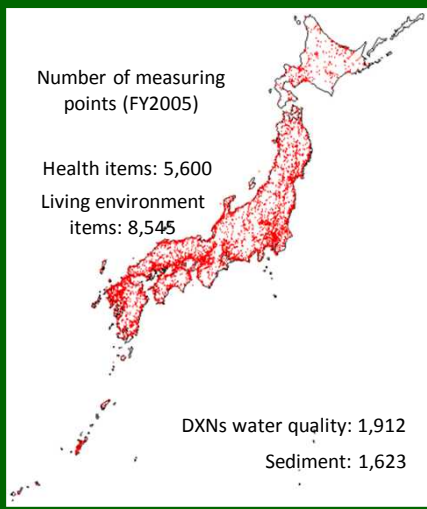


## Monitoring Points in public water area

Number of measuring points (FY2005)

Health items: 5,600  
Living environment items: 8,545

DXNs water quality: 1,912  
Sediment: 1,623



### Summarizing the results of water quality measurement

- Response to a water pollution incident
- Response to the excess of environmental quality standards or the water areas that fails to achieve environmental quality standards

Direction, notice, technical advice required for the continuous monitoring of water quality

## Ministry of the Environment

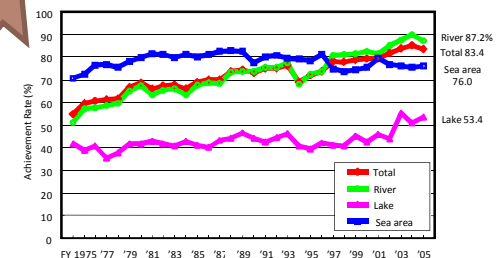
- Decision of Environmental Conservation Measure
- Formulation of a Basic Environment Plan
- Environmental Quality Standards, effluent control
- Analytical method, research method
- Transaction standards for continuous monitoring, etc.
- Response to water pollution incident

Collection & analysis of water quality data of the country and database creation

Official announcement

Official announcement

Transition of the status of achievement of environmental quality standards (BOD or COD)



# [Reference] Examples of Officially Disclosed Data



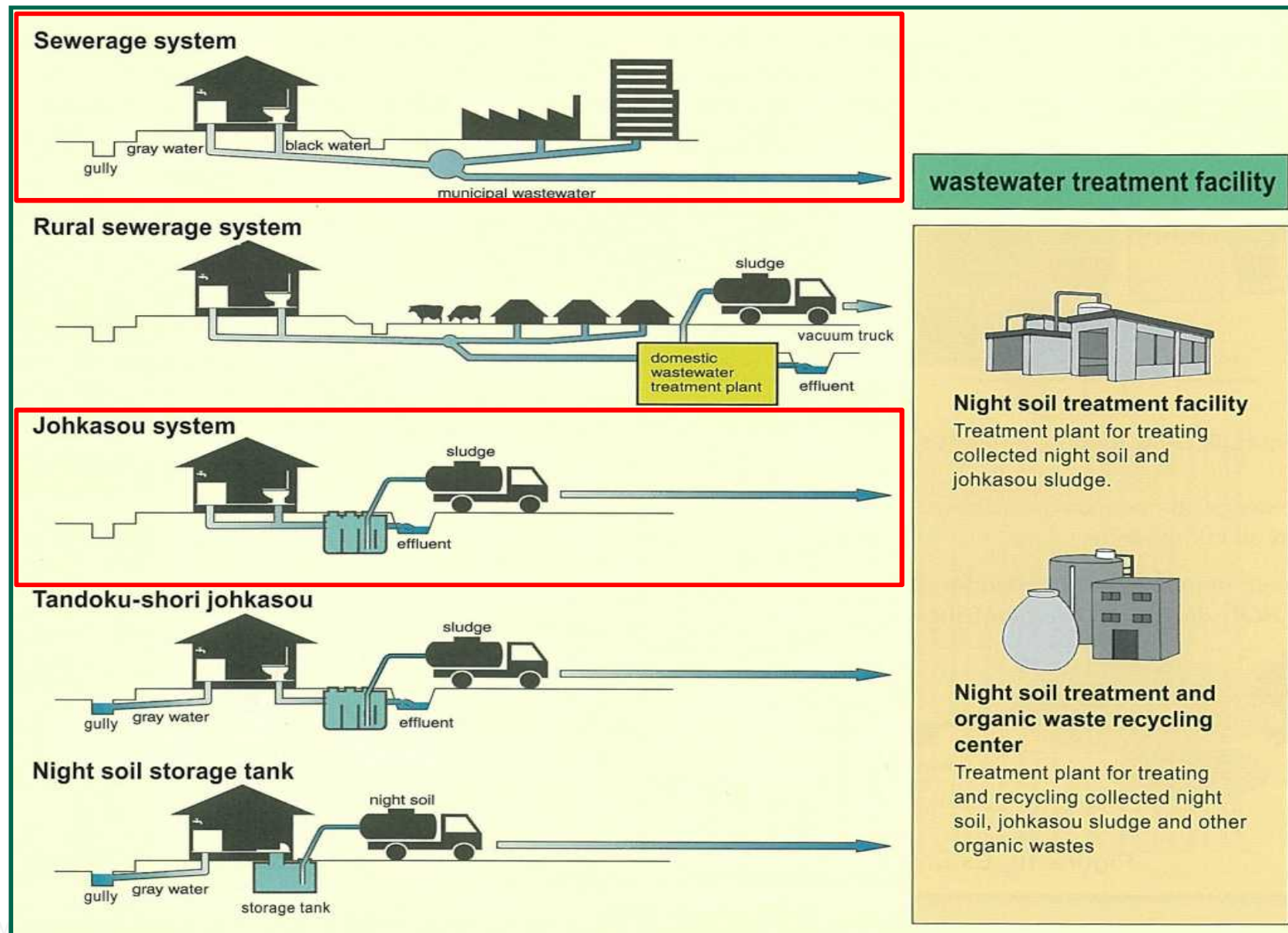


# DOMESTIC WASTEWATER CONTROL



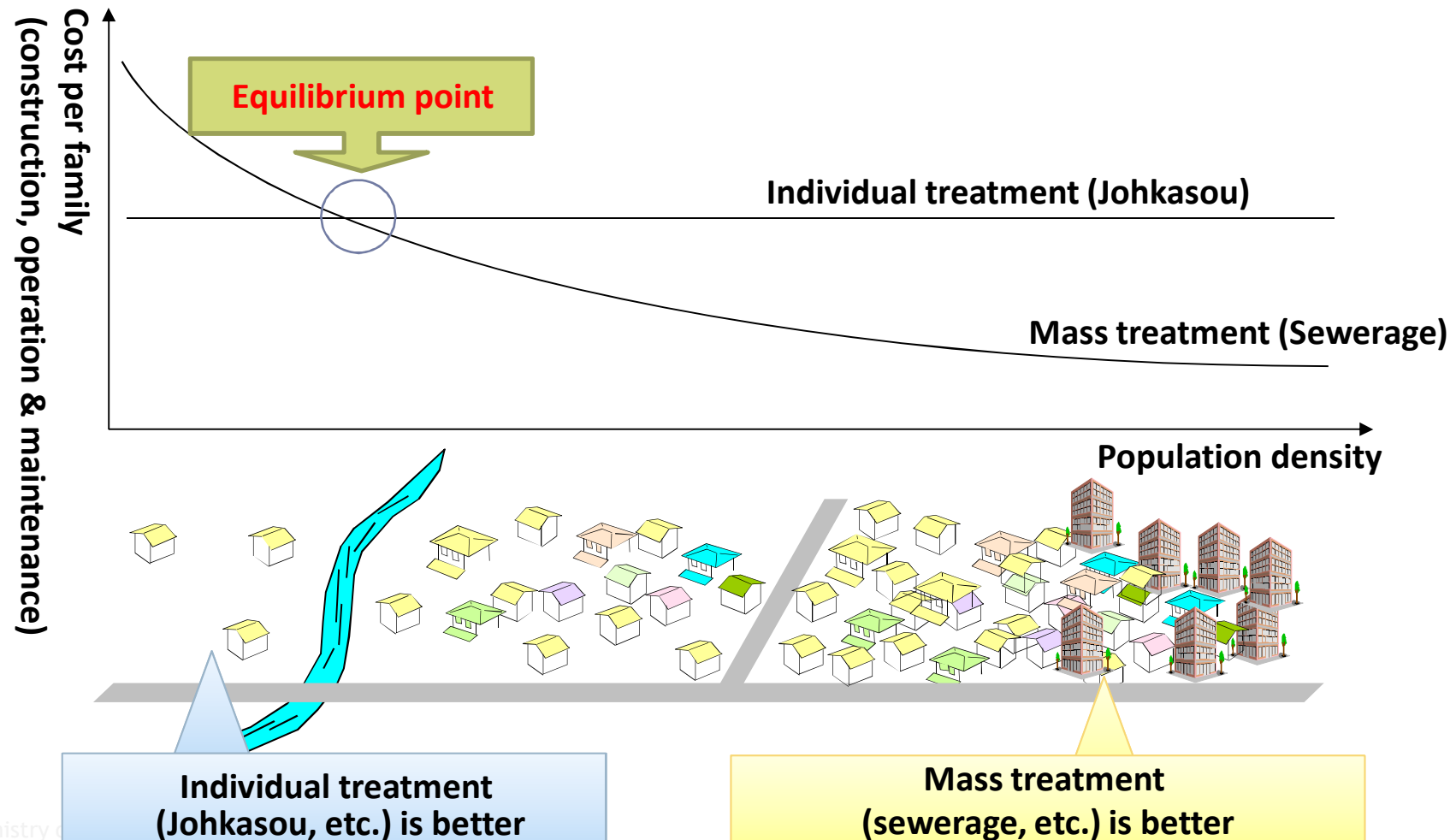
# Night Soil Treatment and

# Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems in Japan



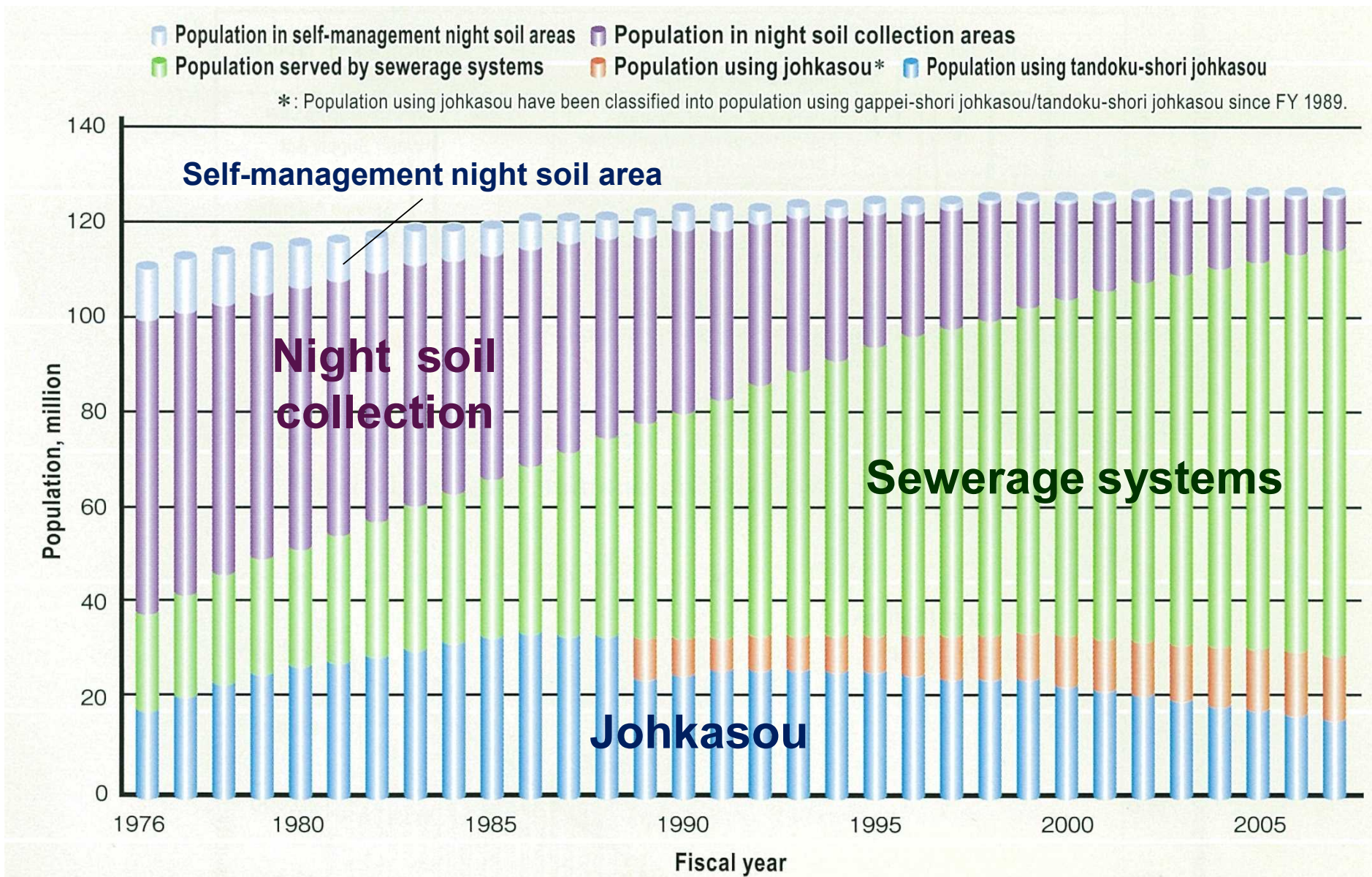
# Plans of Prefectural Governments

- For **efficient construction** of wastewater treatment facilities in each region, a construction plan for wastewater treatment facilities has been formulated based on comparison of economic efficiency, etc., considering the characteristics of each wastewater treatment facility.





# Population Trends for domestic wastewater treatment



# MEASURES FOR CLOSED WATER AREAS

# Measures for Environmental Conservation for Closed Water Areas

## Total Pollutant Load Control System

### Objective:

To reduce the total amount of the pollution load that flows into sea areas in order to improve the water quality of closed sea areas

(Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay & Seto Inland Sea) for a set period (5 years)

Object sea areas: Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay & Seto Inland Sea

Object item: COD (1st -), nitrogen, phosphorus (5th -)

The 6th Total Pollutant Load Control (with Y2011 as the target year) has been completed, and the 7th Total Pollutant Load Control is currently under consideration.



### Basic Policy for Total Load Reduction

The Minister of the Environment determines the five year reduction goal for each target area



### Plan for Total Load Reduction

Prefectural governor formulates the plan for the target amount of reduction according to source categories and for measures for reduction, etc., and acquires the agreement of the Minister of the Environment

#### **Measurement and Control of the Pollutant Load by the Standards for the Total Load Reduction**

(Factories and Establishments with 50m<sup>3</sup>/day or more)

Responsibility to measure & record the pollutant load, order to improve measures against the possibility of exceeding the pollutant load

#### **Guidance, Advice & Recommendation for the Reduction of the Pollutant Load**

(Small-scale establishments, livestock raising, aqua-farming, agriculture, ordinary households, etc.)

#### **Implementation of Projects such as Construction & Upgrading of Sewerage, Septic Tanks, Etc.**

# Measures for Environmental Conservation for Lakes

## System of the Law concerning Special Measures for the Conservation of Lake Water Quality

This system takes special measures for designated lakes in addition to the regulation by the Water Pollution Control Law

**Basic Policy for the Conservation of Lake Water Quality by Cabinet Decision**  
(Covering Lakes in General)

**The Cabinet decides designated lakes at the request of the prefectural governor**  
(10 lakes such as the Lake Biwa and Kasumigaura have been designated as designated lakes)



**“Plan for the Conservation of Lake Water Quality” for each Lake**  
Prefecture formulates, but the agreement of the Minister of the Environment is required through the Conference on Environmental Pollution Control.

### **Pollutant Load Control**

Controlling the daily load in addition to the concentration control based on the Water Pollution Control Law

**Structural & Usage Control for Small-Scale Livestock Raising and Aqua-Farming within the Lake**

### **Implementation of Projects**

Construction of sewerage & septic tanks, dredging, etc.

**Designation of the Area for Effluent Measures**  
Implementation of measures for plane sources

### **Designation of Lakeside Protection Areas**

Protection of lakeside plants with purification function  
(System to notify action in lakeside area)

**Guidance, advice & recommendation to persons of facilities that are not control objects**

(When still needed) **Total Load Control**

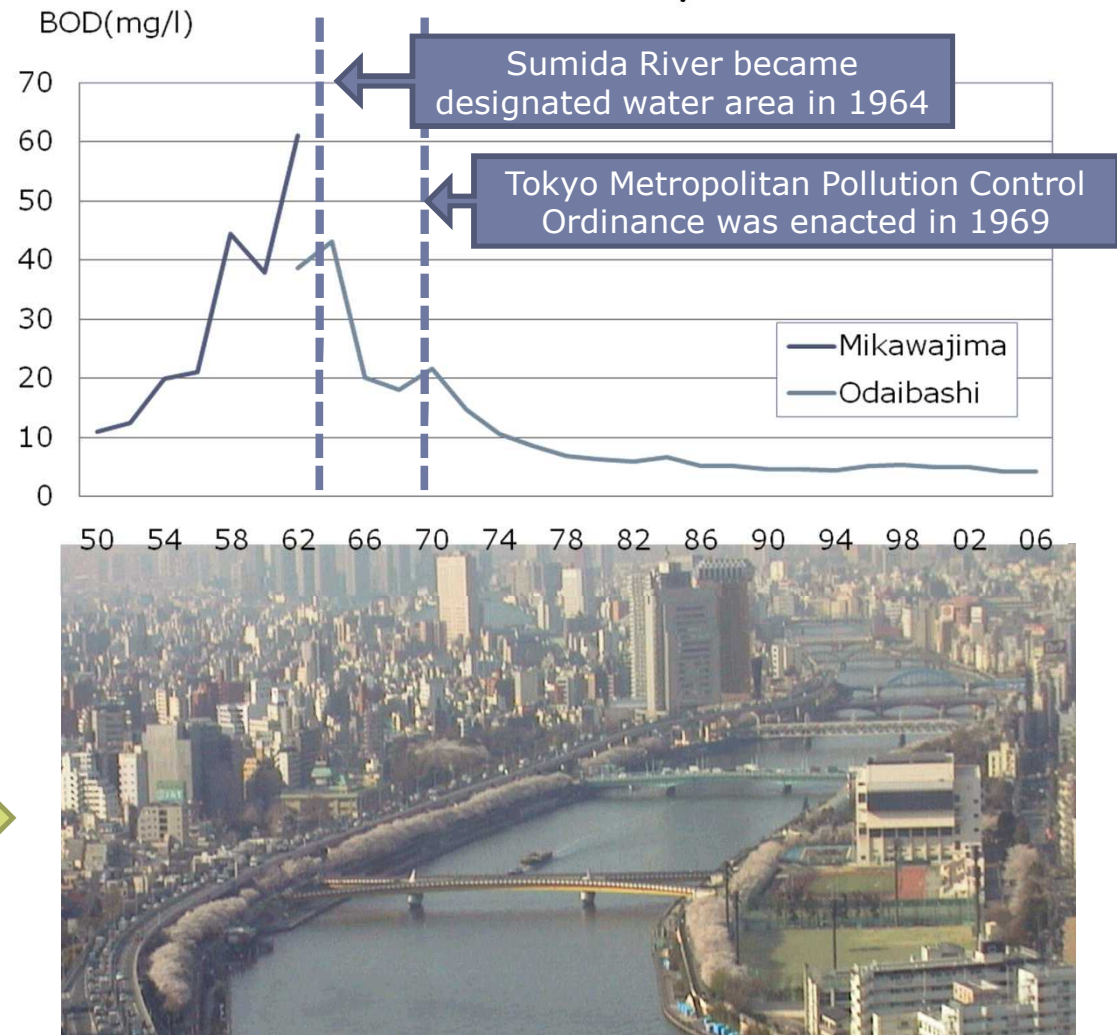


# Water Quality Improvement in Sumida River, Tokyo

- Sumida river has relived as Tokyo's representative landscape by effluent regulations, sewerage construction, dredging of contaminated sediment, and diversion of water for purification



Ministry of the Environment 1971



# Water Quality Improvement in Dokai Bay, Kitakyushu

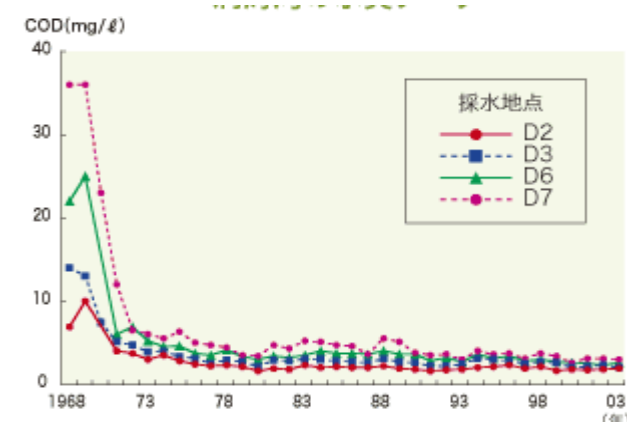
- A miracle city recovering from the “Dead Sea”



“Dead Sea” where fish cannot live



Dokai Bay has recovered



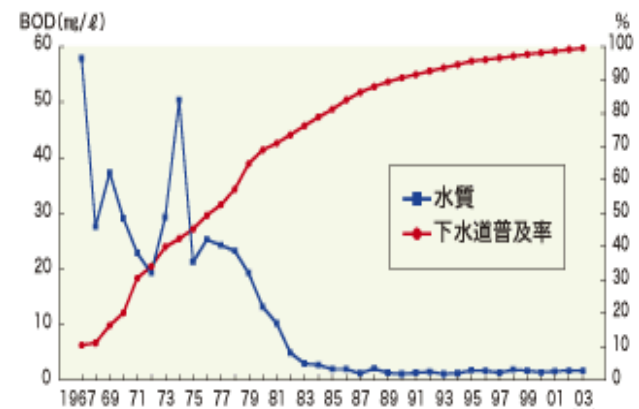
Monitoring data in Dokai bay



Illegal construction along a river



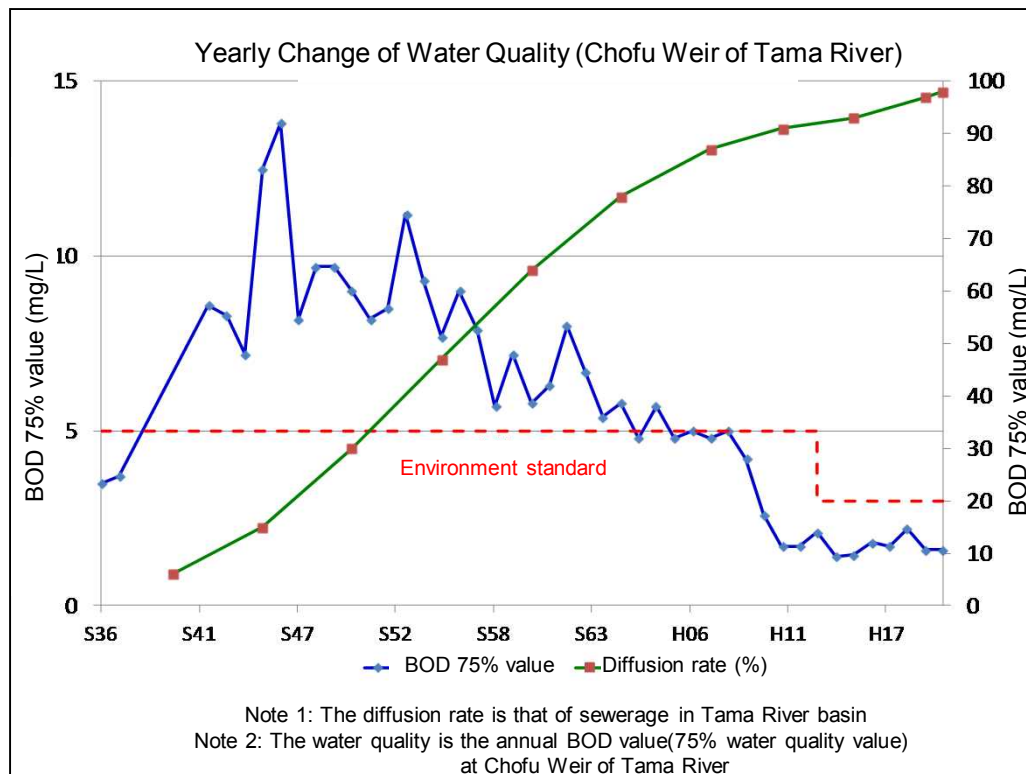
A river as a symbol of the city with water-attracting space



Water quality in Murasaki River and Sewerage coverage ratio

# Water Quality Improvement in Tama River, Tokyo

- Water quality in Tama river has been improved by the progress of sewage construction, resulting in creation of good water environment





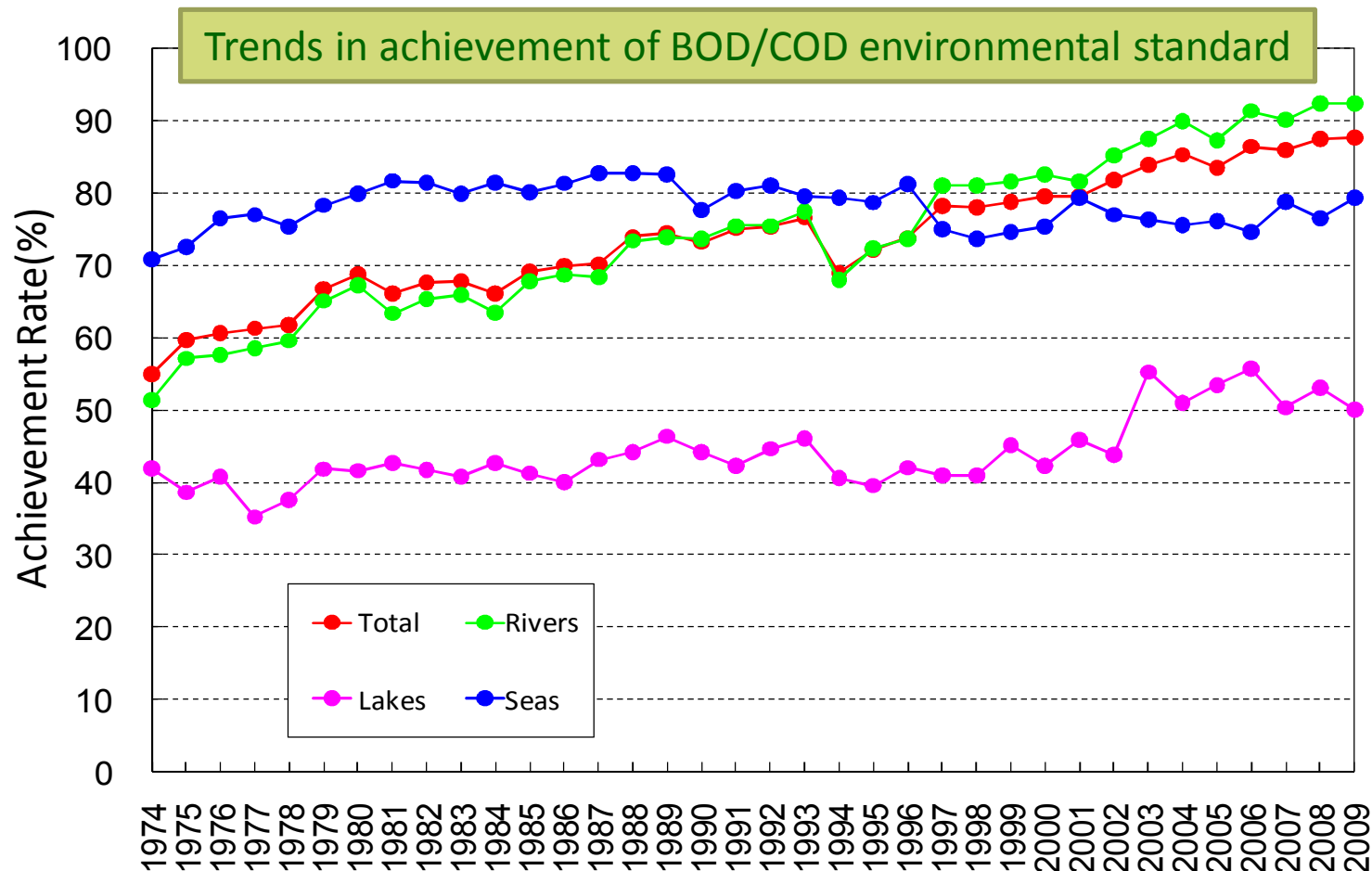
# State of Achievement of Environmental Standard

- **Health Items** :

Achieved Environmental standard almost over the country

- **Living Environment Items:**

Improvement tendency as a whole, but still low achievement rate in enclosed water area such as lakes and inland seas



# Economic loss without Consideration of the Environment

Case of pollution	Economic loss ( \$ / year )	Expenditure for pollution control ( \$ / year )
Minamata Disease	150 million	1.2 million
Itai-Itai Disease	30 million	7.1 million
Yokkaichi Asthma	15.5 million without any countermeasures taken 250 million	175 million

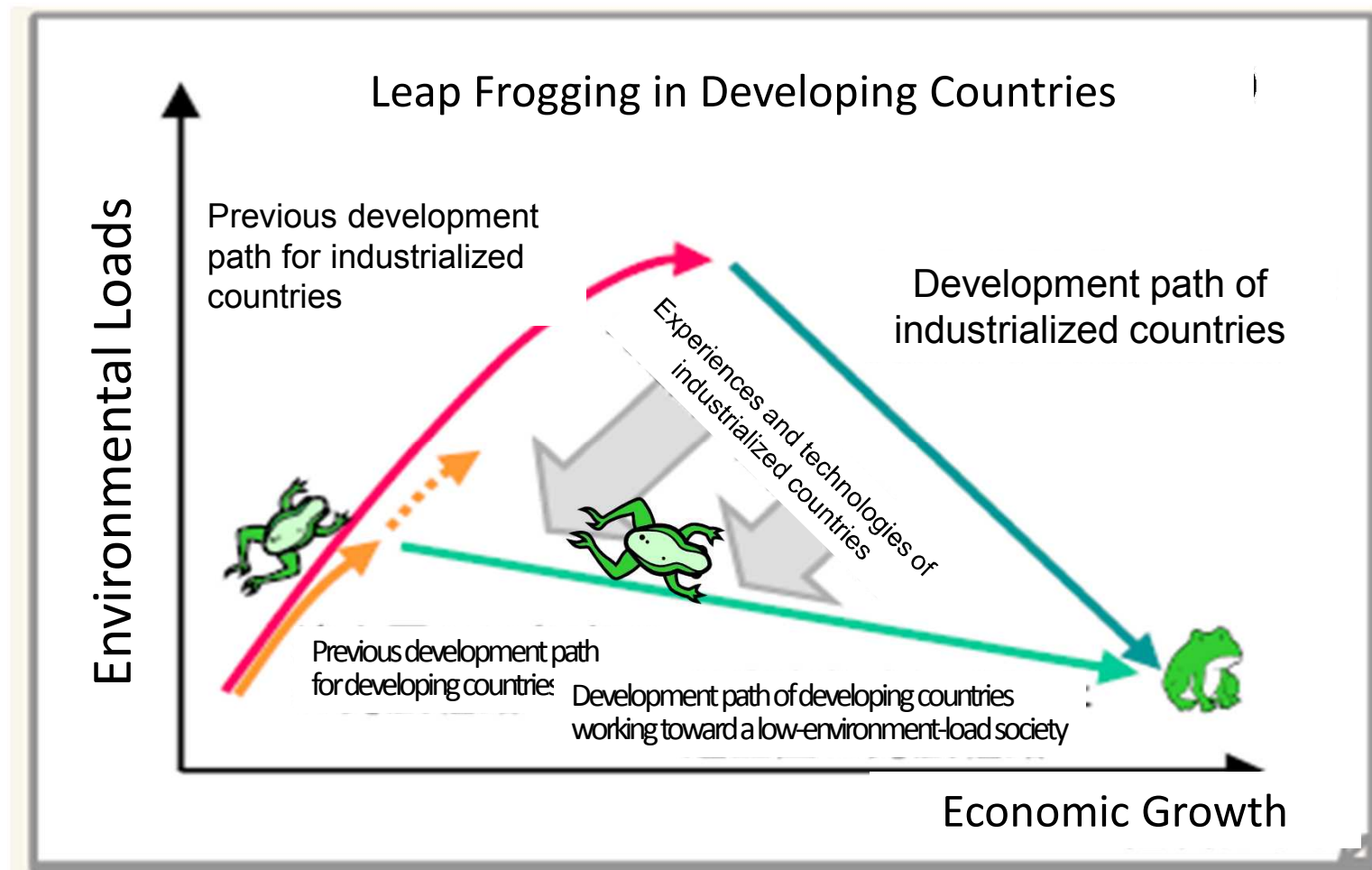
※ The above values are 1989 price of equalized values of economic loss and actual pollution control expenditure with assumption that maturity period is 15 to 30 years.

Source: Japan's experience

※ \$1 = 84 Japanese yen

# Toward “Green Growth”

- Low Carbon & Sound Material-cycle Model for Asia
- Develop economically while living in harmony with the environment to build a sustainable society







Thank you for your attention