

JEO

JAPAN Environment Quarterly



Vol.10 June
2015

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The Challenges of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan for Post-2015 Development Agenda



The Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations (Follow-Up and Review) in New York, USA, May 18-22, 2015.

2015 is a very important year for mankind to take a new step towards a sustainable society. Specifically, Post-2015 Development Agenda, a set of new global development objectives after 2015, will be adopted in September 2015, so that animated discussions are taking place at UN intergovernmental negotiation conferences. MOEJ has contributed to such intergovernmental negotiations. In addition, Japanese high officials have actively participated in various UN conferences on the sustainable development in order to have talks with pivotal persons and to form the networks with other countries. The core of the Agenda is the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), and its draft was published in July 2014. SDGs, which consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, fully cover three aspects of sustainable development (the economy, society and environment), and these are universal development objectives and applied to all developing and developed countries without any distinction. We recognize that the agreement on SDGs will be a good start to achieve sustainable society surmounting an existing view: categorizing the world into developing countries and developed countries.

17 goals in SDGs are roughly categorized into 3 groups below.

Post-2015 Development Agenda will be a set of new global development objectives after 2015. Intergovernmental negotiations are under way in order to adopt this Agenda in September 2015, and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) has actively contributed to this process. The core of the Agenda is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including many goals and targets that are closely related to the environment. Therefore, we will continue to promote active practices of SDGs in Japan and international cooperation catching the trend in the environmental field, and this includes the efforts to diffuse Japanese technologies and experiences that support sustainable consumption and production.

- ① Goals that similar agreements already exist and the specific targets need to be discussed in process of such agreements (e.g. Goal 13. Climate Change)
- ② Goals that similar agreements already exist and the specific targets are set in reference to contents of such agreements (e.g. Goal 15. Biodiversity)
- ③ Goals that similar agreements do not exist so that SDGs are expected to secure their international importance (e.g. Goal 6. Water, Goal 7. Energy, Goal 12. Sustainable Consumption and Production)

We believe that goals that are categorized in Group 3 are particularly fundamental in the environmental field. Therefore, the goals and specific targets in this group must be clearly established through active discussions at intergovernmental negotiations, and their importance need to be globally recognized.

Among 17 goals, 12 goals shown in the figure are related to the administration of the Ministry of the Environment, and we have worked to connect our environmental policies to each target. Assuming that SDGs will be a basis of national policies, we recognize SDGs as a momentum for the proactive practice of the environmental policies. Mainstreaming SDGs in the provinces is a great challenge. In order to diffuse SDGs in the entire nation, it is vital to associate outstanding efforts in the provinces to the targets of the SDGs playing up their importance. Therefore, we are willing to cooperate with the stakeholders such as local governments and enterprises for the nationwide practice of the SDGs.

We are planning to set an example in the international cooperation according to the idea of SDGs. For instance, as a co-leading agency of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme, the Ministry of the Environment shares low-carbon technologies and



Mr. Soichiro Seki, Vice-Minister for Global Environment, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, made a statement stressing the importance of the implementation of Post-2015 Development Agenda at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok, Thailand, May 21, 2015

experiences with other countries mainly in Asia/Pacific region (See Current Topics for more information). This programme is one of the UN 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in goal 12 (① Sustainable Public Procurement ② Consumer information ③ Sustainable Tourism ④ Sustainable Lifestyles and Education ⑤ Sustainable Building and Construction ⑥ Sustainable Food Systems), and all of them were initiated in 2014. For international contribution to the achievement of SDGs, the Ministry of the Environment will continue to expand and strengthen the network of international cooperation catching the trend in the environmental field.

MORE Information

Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Shuichi MIZUSHIMA

Section Chief
 International Strategy Division
 Global Environment Bureau



The First Meeting of the Multistakeholder Advisory Committee of the UN 10-Year Programme on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education

Tokyo Was Once Again the Centre of Planning for International Actions to Promote Well-being of Society and Its Citizens



The lively discussion of experts highlighting the actions to be prioritised under the programme. (Tokyo, March 18-19, 2015)

Experts from over 21 countries descended in Tokyo for the first international meeting of the Multistakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) of the UN 10-Year programme on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE), held on 18-19 March, 2015.

The SLE programme is part of a broader framework called the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) that was adopted at the Rio+20 meeting in order to support initiatives worldwide towards a transition to Sustainable Consumption and Production.

During the meeting, the experts highlighted actions to be prioritised under three main themes: developing innovative models and replicating successful examples of sustainable lifestyles; providing education to develop the capacities of citizens, policy makers and businesses to encourage

sustainable lifestyles; and developing tools and research to support transformation of current lifestyles and also shape future lifestyles.

The experts developed initial plans for flagship projects that will be implemented by global consortia of leading organisations, covering the themes of urban lifestyles, workplace environments, schools and other learning environments, and also research for future lifestyles.

Besides the flagship projects, members also agreed to launch a call for project proposals to be funded from the 10YFP Trust Fund. The call is expected to be announced soon.

Japan's Ministry of Environment is co-leading the SLE programme, together with the Government of Sweden and WWF International. For this fiscal year, Japan has provided 2.5 million US dollars to support the SLE programme. This will focus on projects that demonstrate quantifiable reductions in CO2 emissions due to changes in lifestyles.

Lewis AKENJI

Senior Policy Fellow
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies(IGES)



Atsushi WATABE

Researcher, Sustainable Consumption and Production
Area Professional,
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies(IGES)



Developing and replicating sustainable lifestyles, including low-carbon lifestyles

- Promoting innovative models / traditional practices of sustainable lifestyles
- Supporting conducive policies, infrastructures and economic instruments
- Building the business case and encouraging responsible market innovation for sustainable lifestyles

Educating for sustainable lifestyles

- Mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles into formal education
- Making sustainable lifestyles a focus in every learning environment
- Mobilizing and empowering youth for sustainable lifestyles

Transforming current and shaping future generation's lifestyles

- Scenarios for sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles
- Developing frameworks and tools to assess and track lifestyles impacts
- Ensuring and measuring the programme contribution to global priority challenges

Work Areas of the SLE Programme

The Actions for Disaster Waste Management

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction/Great East Japan Earthquake Forum



Presentation about Japanese disaster waste management by Mr. Ozato, the State Minister of the Environment

For the quick and smooth management of disaster waste, it is crucial to take advantage of the experience of Great Hanshin earthquake and Great East Japan earthquake for the management of the domestic and overseas disaster waste in the future.

We presented our disaster waste management at a symposium about the disaster waste that was related to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held from March 14 to 17, 2014 in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture. In this symposium, Mr. Ozato, the State Minister of the Environment, explained the lessons learned from Great East Japan earthquake and Great Hanshin earthquake, our method and technologies for the disas-

ter waste management, and we exchanged views on the high priority of the disaster waste management with UN Environment Programme, World Maritime University, and the City of Sendai in the panel discussion.

In order to respond quickly and smoothly in cases of disaster, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan will comprehensively strengthen the waste management system by building a regular cooperating network among the national government, prefectures, municipalities, and enterprises, making the waste management facilities earthquake-resistant and installing the emergency generating facilities. Furthermore, we will amend the relevant laws to secure the practice of mentioned activities in order to make our measures cover all kinds of disasters from large-scale ones to small-scale ones.

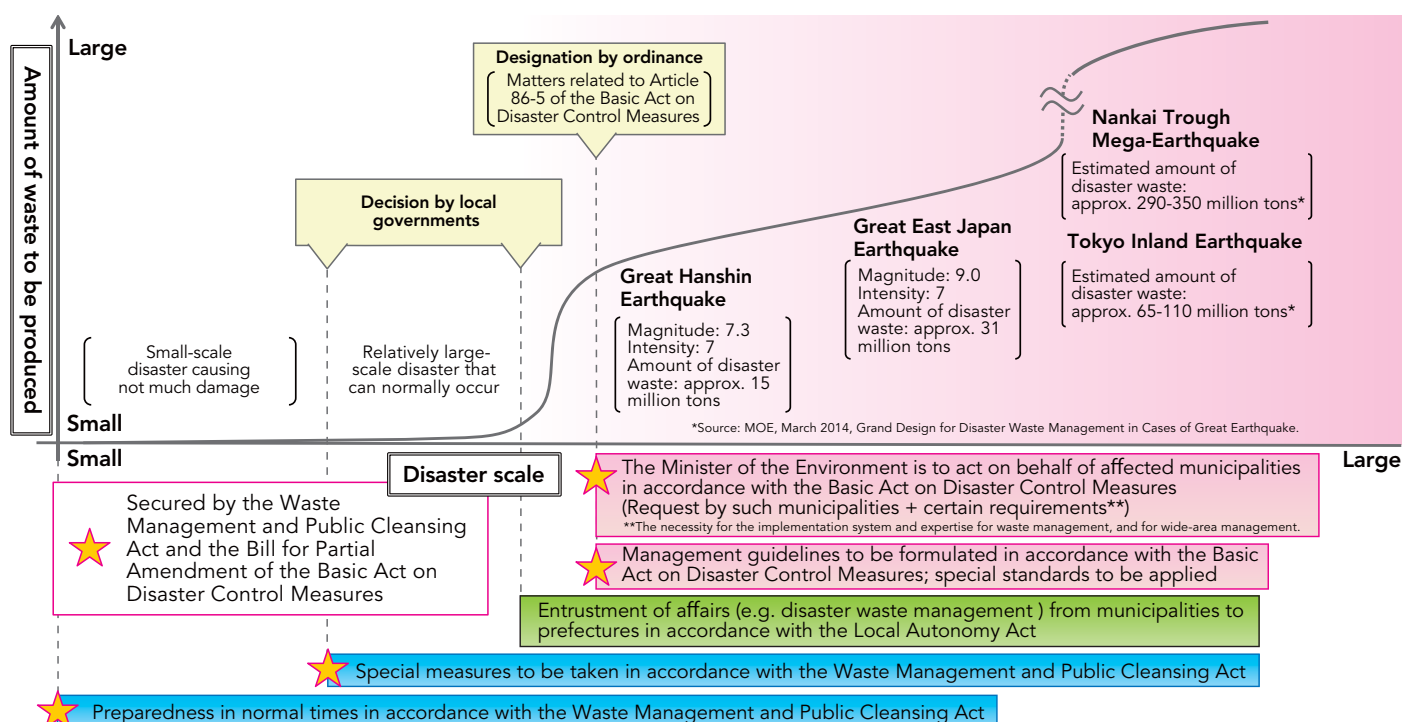
MORE Information

SENDAI COMMITTEE FOR THE UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
<http://www.bosai-sendai.jp/en/>



Takuya KIRIKAWA

Section Chief
 Waste Management Division
 Waste Management and Recycling Department



Strengthening the Waste Management System Respond to Large-scale Disasters

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) 2015 and the Official Side Event “Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction”



The opening remarks by Minister Mochizuki

The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), the United Nations University (UNU) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) co-hosted the Public Forum Side Event “Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction” on the first day of WCDRR held in Sendai City, Japan from March 14th to 18th. Over 200 participants from home and abroad attended the event.

Mr. Mochizuki, the Minister of the Environment of Japan, gave the opening speech and announced that MOEJ planned to provide 1 million dollars of financial support for IUCN through the Japan Biodiversity Fund established in

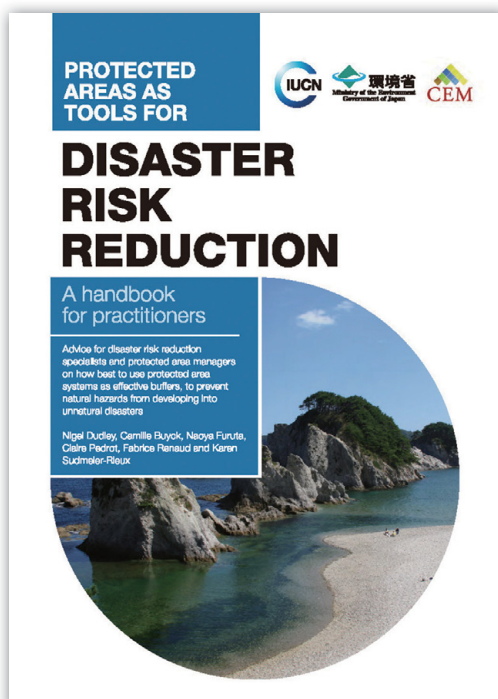
the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to support capacity building activities of government officials in charge of environment and disaster risk reduction in developing countries.

In the event, MOEJ and IUCN launched ‘A handbook for practitioners; Protected Areas as Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction’ in Japanese and English.

Following the remarks of Mrs. Akie Abe, the spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan, the keynote speeches were made by Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, the Senior Vice Rector of UNU and Ms. Inger Andersen, the Director General of IUCN. Then Mr. Christopher Briggs, the executive secretary of the Ramsar Convention, and Mr. Shoichi Shirahata, the chairman of Kesenuma-Oshima Tourism Association, presented the best practices from all over the world.

In the later part of the event, the panel discussion was held under the coordination by Prof. Shiro Wakui, the acting chair of UNDB-J Committee. The panelists discussed their views on the ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and reconstruction as well as the issues of diffusing the best practices such as the Kesenuma-Oshima models and their solutions.

As relevant sessions were also held in the plenary meeting of WCDRR, we found that the expectations for this field are very high. We will continuously promote the Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction worldwide.



‘A handbook for practitioners; Protected Areas as Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction’



The panel discussion

Naoki NAKAYAMA

Deputy Director
Biodiversity Policy Division
Nature Conservation Bureau



Solution Provider of Monitoring Technology for the Improvement of the World Ambient Environment

HORIBA Limited globally provides monitoring devices and high-quality services that contribute to the improvement of the environment. In the field of the air quality monitoring, we measure the concentrations of several substances in the air such as nitrogen oxides, oxygen saturation, hydrogen sulfide, and ammonia. Moreover, we also monitor PM10 and PM2.5 which are attracting public attention nowadays and their constituent elements with an automatic monitoring system.

In order to meet the needs for the atmospheric monitoring, we provide additional equipment such as the shelter for the monitoring station and relevant services such as sampling and data processing.



The air quality monitoring station in Berlin Brandenburg Airport
This system includes our ambient monitoring analyzer, meteorograph and data logger.

During the year of 2014, we sold over 1,000 analyzers in 27 countries.

The picture below is the air quality monitoring station we installed in Berlin Brandenburg Airport, Germany. In addition to the air quality analyzer, the monitoring station contains the meteorological monitoring devices with the data logger, which records the wind speed and wind direction.

We keep globally contributing to the conservation and improvement of the earth's environment providing our wide range of monitoring techniques and devices for the air quality, water quality, soil and radiation.

Utilizing our successful experiences in Japan, the United States and European countries, we will appeal the advantages of our environmental monitoring techniques in the newly developing countries which have emerging market economies.

MORE Information

HORIBA WEB site
<http://www.horiba.com/>

HORIBA
Process & Environmental

Takeshi KOBAYASHI

Manager
Corporate & Segment Strategy Division
Process & Environmental Segment Strategy Office
HORIBA, Ltd



Efforts to Recycle Resourced within 2km in Radius

Sustainable Life Laboratory researches and diffuses technologies that help to achieve affluent and creative lives with a resource-circulating system in a local community.

We establish composting technologies including the one called cardboard box composting that can compost organic waste such as kitchen waste, fallen leaves, lawn waste and seaweed without using electricity, and we spread our technologies over Asian countries by educating people.



Spreading the composting technology with a history of 50 years to Asia

Our goal is forming a whole circulating process from composting to retailing within an area of 2km in radius, so we practice unique activities. For example, we arrange a variety of lectures for kindergarteners, students and citizens and organize courses entitled "The Half-farmer Urban People" to educate part-time food producers.

Through our activities, we feel that it is essential to improve our programs and projects more in order to suggest best practice for each community in Asia region.

We hope to increase the number of people who enjoy their lives with a healthy cycle of organic matters, have safe and tasty vegetables and receive eco-friendly education.

MORE Information

The Jun-namakan FUKUOKA
<http://english.jun-namaken.com/>

Yuiko TAIRA

Executive Director
Leader Training (Domestic/International)
The Jun-namaken FUKUOKA



Birth of Myoko Togakushi Renzan National Park



The panoramic view of Nojiri Lake and Kurohime Mountain (left) and Myoko Mountain (right)



A view of Togakushi Mountain Range from Kagami Pond

Myoko Togakushi Renzan National Park was born on 27 March 2015 as the 32nd national park in Japan. The park is located in the skirts of the mountains on the border of Niigata prefecture and Nagano prefecture stretching from 500m to 2,400m in elevation.

Myoko
Togakushi Renzan
National Park



The park consists of highlands and lakes.

The new park was a part of Joshin'etsu Kogen National Park. Joshin'etsu Kogen National Park is recognized that it has two areas: the western area and the eastern area. While the eastern part is characterized with the scenery of volcanic highlands, the western area, Myoko Toga-

kushi Renzan National Park, is characterized with the scenery of dense mountains including volcanic mountains. This difference is the reason for the birth of the new national park.

We will continue to maintain the national parks properly with a close cooperation with all concerned sharing common objectives, and we will keep the parks more attractive. We are going to hold a variety of events for the new park this year, so please visit and enjoy our new park.

Chubu Regional Environment Office Nagano Nature Conservation Office

Ministry of the Environment

Voice of MOE Family in the World

Indian People Sit under a Tree and Think

While commuting every morning in Delhi, I enjoy going through beautiful roadside trees. Delhi has the largest forest cover among major cities of India and you can find a number of forest areas. Tree functions as an air purifier, as well as a shelter from the strong



Roadside trees in the centre of Delhi

sunlight here.

Air pollution in India, especially in Delhi, is known to be the world's worst level. According to a study, outdoor air pollution is the fifth leading cause of death in India and about 620,000 premature deaths occurred from air pollution-related diseases in 2010. Several countermeasures such as tree planting have been taken, but most did not succeed because of the rapid growth of population and industry exceeding the effect of the countermeasures. Although the public awareness about air pollution is increasing gradually, it is not as high as expected.

In ancient India, Buddha was spiritually awakened under a tree. When I see people sitting under a tree, I often wonder what they are thinking of environmental issues.

Hajime HIROSAWA

First Secretary
Economic Section
Embassy of Japan in India
(The tenure: March 2012-May 2015)

