



Toward 3R Society in Asia and Transboundary Movement

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Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Japan.

My name is Hideto Yoshida and I am Director General of the Waste Management and Recycling Department of Ministry of the Environment.

In my presentation, based on our experiences in Japan, I would like to introduce two things; why improvement of implementation capacity will lead to build a sound material-cycle society, and what we should achieve for the goal.

Contents

1. Japan's experience of building a sound material-cycle society
2. Building International Sound Material-cycle Society through Controls of Exports and Imports
3. Activities of the Asian Network
4. Future Activities

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My presentation consists of four parts.

First, I will explain how Japan has promoted a sound material-cycle society. I hope these lessons will be useful for waste trade.

Next, in relation to building international sound material cycle society, I will talk about challenges we are facing. These are directly related to the agendas of this workshop.

Third, I will review the past Asian Network activities and introduce the outline of this discussion.

Finally, I would like to explain briefly about our future plans.



1. Japan's Experiences to Build a Sound-material Cycle Society

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I will begin by explaining what kind challenges we faced and what kind measures we carried out in order to establish a sound material-cycle society in Japan.

Japan's Waste Problems in the Past

- Ad-hoc Responses at Frontlines as “Sweep the trouble under the carpet,”
- “Cheaper but Worse” Style was Common in Waste Treatment, Similar to “Bad Money Drives out Good”

As a Consequence...



Large-scale Illegal Dumping of Waste

【Improper waste management by open incineration】



【Large-scale illegal dumping】



【Improper storage of PCB waste】



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In the past, Japan did not place any emphasis on the proper disposal of waste. Even when local government find illegal dumping, for example, they did not take it seriously, but instead tried to sweep it under the rug. In fact, waste disposers tried to dispose wastes in a “cheapest and easiest” way.



To understand what lied behind such situation, please see this “vicious spiral” on this slide.

Observing illegal dumping in some place, local residents tend to intensify campaigns against building final treatment facilities. Such oppositions from residents lead to raise difficulties to construct a waste treatment facility. When the number of facilities go down, people are more likely to dump wastes illegally. At the same time, good recycler had to leave the market one by one, because they cannot compete over those who illegally dump wastes .

The mass media ridiculed Japan as a country filled with disputes over waste. For us, it was very important to cut down this vicious circulation.

A Decade-long Reform in Waste Management and Recycling

Big shift in the waste management and recycling policy

- ◆ Strengthen the **waste generator's responsibility**
- ◆ Enacted recycling laws with **the concept of extended producer responsibility**
- ◆ **Established** legislative framework (Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society)

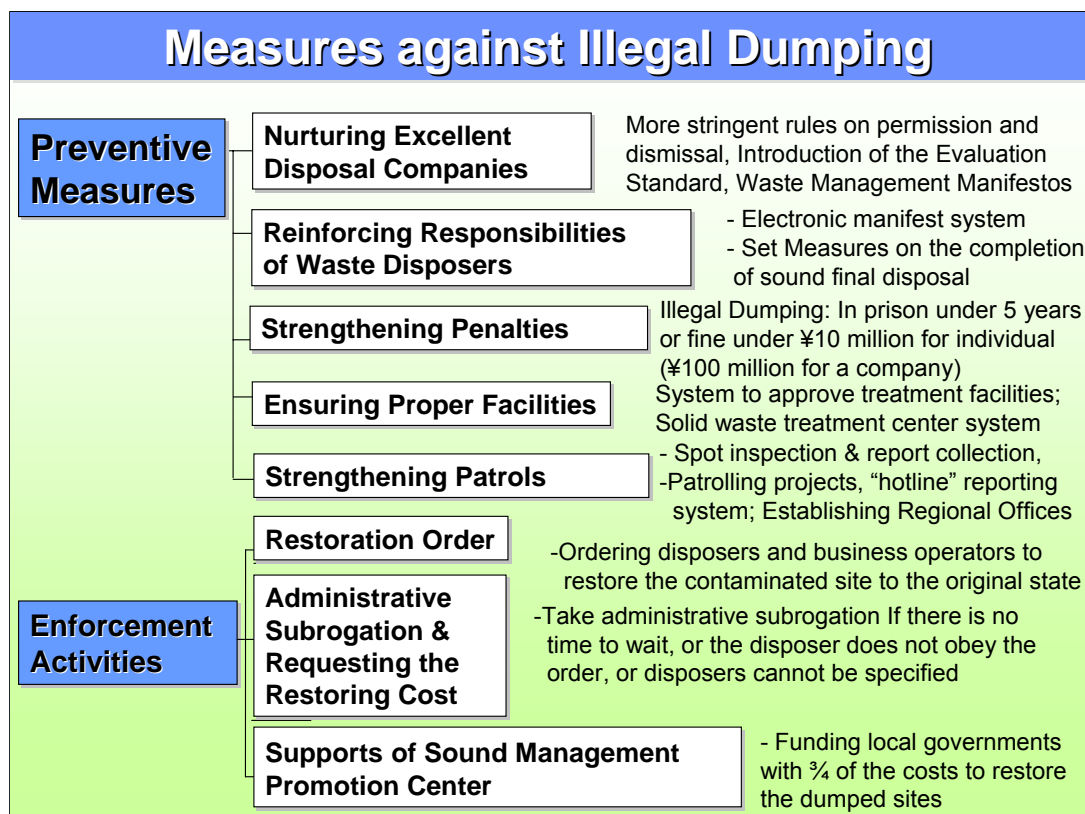
Stepped-up efforts by various stakeholders

- Cooperation and collaboration between national and local governments
- Private companies' efforts
- Participation of NGOs and NPOs

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So, we drastically reformed Japanese waste management and recycling policy in the last decade.

Specifically, the revised Waste Management Law put more responsibility on waste generating businesses. After this revision, business operators got understood to pay appropriate fees to dispose their wastes. I will elaborate this point in the next slide.

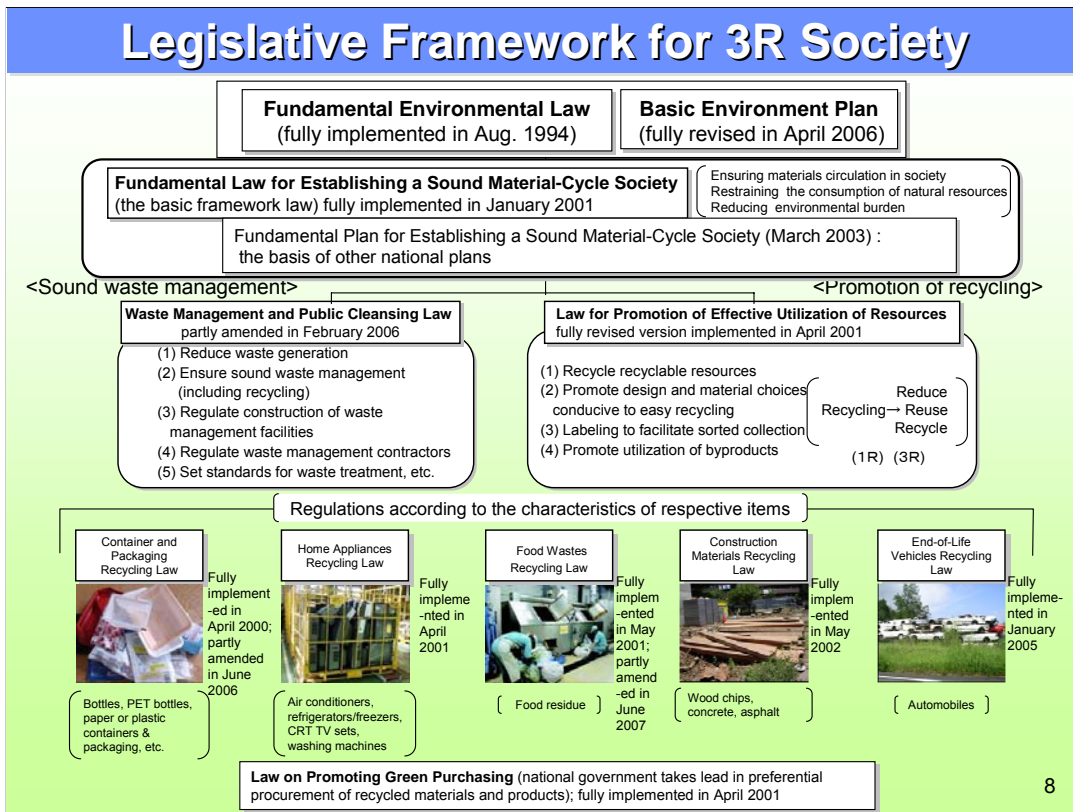


As for measures on appropriate treatment of wastes, there are two pillars of policies, one is preventive measures and the other is enforcement activities.

In Japan, business operators should be responsible for treating generated wastes. For example, they need to contract with waste treatment company with fair fee. If their wastes were inappropriately disposed, the waste generator may have to conduct recovering activities if the they have not fulfilled their responsibility.

To mandate these measures, local governments always conduct site inspections. Nearly thirteen thousand inspections are conducted annually.

These efforts halved the number of illegal dumping to 500 cases from over 1000 cases in 1998. And from these experiences, I can say that sound waste management system should be the basis of sound material-cycle society.



As for the legal system in Japan, there is the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society as a basis, and several laws to implement specific measures under the fundamental laws.



2. Building International Sound Material-Cycle Society through Controls of Exports and Imports

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As reviewed, we have made various efforts to establish a sound material-cycle society. Meanwhile, there are many Asian countries facing similar challenges. So, we have taken initiatives to build an sound material-cycle society internationally.

To achieve the goal, we found controls of exports and imports is important.

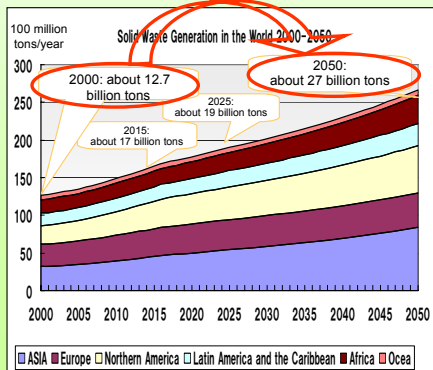
Let me explain about it in detail.

Future Waste Generation

Prospects of the increasing generation of waste in developing countries

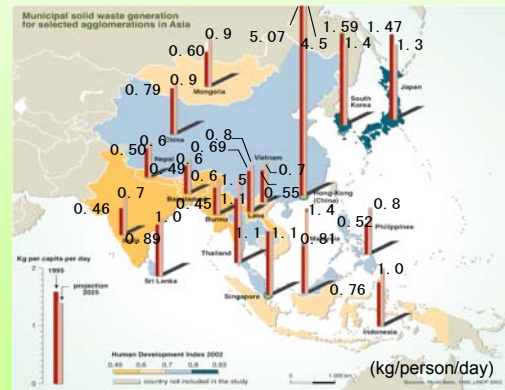
- Increase of waste generation in the world (2000: 12.7 billion tons →2050:27 billion tons)
- Especially in developing countries, waste generation will drastically increase according to the future economic growth

[Future prospects of waste generation amount in the world]



Source: Yoshizawa, Tanaka, et al. *Research on estimation of the world waste generation amount and future prospects*

[Municipal solid waste generation amount per person per day (1995) and future prospects (2025)]



Source: from data shown in the website of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention

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As all of us know, waste generation in the world will be double in 2050, especially Asian countries. Under these conditions, the growth of the amount of waste and the rate of resource depletion will become serious environmental problems.

3R Initiative

- ◆ Agreed by Heads of State at the G8 Sea Island Summit in the U.S. in June 2004 as an effort to construct a sound material-cycle society through reduction, reuse, and recycling (3Rs) of waste.
- ◆ Launched at Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative in April 2005
- ◆ Senior Officials Meeting held in March 2006
- ◆ At 2006 St. Petersburg Summit **agreed to set targets as appropriate taking account of resource productivity**

Objectives of the 3R Initiative

1 Promote the 3Rs in each country

2 Lower barriers to international flow

3 Promote cooperation among stakeholders

4 Promote science and technology suitable for the 3Rs

5 Cooperate with developing countries

Senior Officials Meeting in March 2006

- Report of 3R activities and model cases by countries and international organizations
- Discussions on 3R promotion at national and international levels



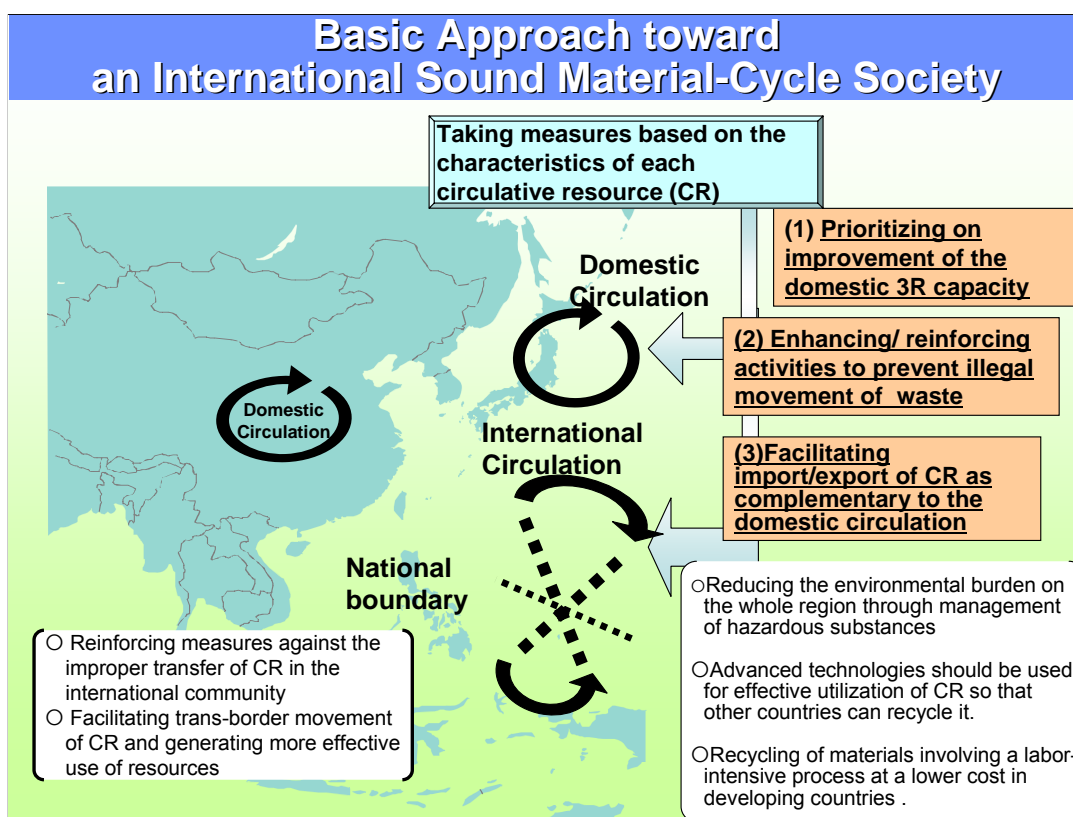
October 2006 Asia 3R Promotion Conference

October 2007 Senior Officials Meeting on the 3R Initiative (Bonn, Germany)

May 2008 G8 Environment Ministers Meeting (Kobe, Japan)

July 2008 G8 Summit (Hokkaido Toyako, Japan)

With such trends, the 3R Initiative was started at the G8 Sea Island Summit in 2004, as an effort to construct a sound material-cycle society through 3R.



This slide shows the basic vision for building a sound material cycle society. We think it is important to take the following four steps;

First, each country aims to establish a 3R Society domestically. Second, measures to prevent the illegal export and import of waste should be strengthened and improved. As the third step, we should facilitate the imports and exports of recyclable resources. Then finally, sound material-cycle society can be established internationally.

From our domestic experiences of building a sound material-cycle society, we understand the second and third step are extremely important.

Causes of Improper TBM of Waste

1. Exporting “waste” without the Basel procedure
2. Exporting “non-waste” at exporting country, but being regarded as “waste” at importing country

	Basel Waste	Gray Zone	Non Waste
With Procedure	1. Enforcement	2. Information Exchange	
Without Procedure	1. Enforcement		

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How can we prevent improper imports and exports? By analyzing cases, we found two reasons why improper trade had occurred.

(1) One is that exporting hazardous waste without following the Basel procedure, as shown in the red area.

(2) Another reason is the definition of hazardous waste. Since the definition of hazardous waste differ country by country, the item may not be defined as hazardous waste in exporting country, but may be defined as hazardous waste in importing country, resulting in “one-side illegal trade” as shown in the yellow area.

To narrow the red area, enhancing enforcement is important. In the meantime, narrowing the yellow field need a reduction of gaps on interpretation of hazardous waste through information exchanges.

The Asian Network was launched based on such problem awareness.



3. Activities of the Asian Network

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From now on, after briefly reviewing the past arguments of the Asian Network, I would like to talk about the agendas for this meeting.

History of the Asian Network

2003	- Questionnaire Survey
2004	- Asian Network Workshop (Tokyo) - Development of website
2005	- Asian Network Workshop (Tokyo) - E-waste workshop (Tokyo) - Launch Basel e-waste project in AP region - Research on waste regulations
2006	- Research on criteria for waste/non-waste
2007	- Regional Workshop (Beijing)

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This is a summary of Asian Network and other related activities so far in Asia. Mainly, these activities are composed of three parts, workshops, web page and researches.

AN Workshop (2004)

- Dec 7-8, 2004 in Tokyo
- 26 participants from 10 countries and regions
- Shared experiences and difficulties
- Site Visit (used home appliances recycling facility)



The first workshop was held in 2004 in Tokyo. Through information exchange, we agreed that there were difficulties to find a definition of hazardous waste.

AN Workshop (2005)

- Nov 23, 2005 in Tokyo
- 22 participants from 10 countries and region, 7 observers from SBC etc.
- Focusing on E-waste
 - Shared information on Policy
 - Trends on Trading
 - Definition of E-waste



Next workshop was held in 2005, focusing on e-waste. At this time, we understood that many countries were facing big challenges on e-waste management, both internationally and domestically.

Website

- Regulations
 - Basel Domestic Laws
 - Second-hand Regulations
- Contact Point
- Statistics Data etc.



http://www.env.go.jp/en/pol/asian_net/

At that day, we developed a web site that contains regulations, contact points at each country, statistics data and so on.

Regional Workshop (2007)

- Mar 28-29, 2007 in Beijing
- Organized by BCRC-China, Cooperated by SEPA of China and MoE of Japan
- 23 participants and 25 observers from 10 countries and region
- Definition of Hazardous Waste
 - Information exchange on updated waste regulations
 - Definition of waste / non-waste



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Last year, formally named the “Regional Workshop on Prevention of Illegal Trans boundary Movement for Hazardous Wastes in Asia” was held in Beijing, organized by BCRC-China with jointly cooperated by SEPA of China and Japan.

At this workshop, to reduce gaps on hazardous waste among countries, the following approach was proposed;

- (1) Firstly, each country make clear the criteria of waste as much as possible,
- (2) Secondly, try to coordinate it as much as possible
- (3) And for remained gap due to the situation of each country, try to communicate the difference

Agenda

1. Update on implementing activities of the Basel Convention
2. Criteria for new, second-hand and waste
3. Good practices for the implementation
4. Future projects

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Based on these past activities, we would like to discuss four issues at this workshop.

(1)The first session aims to promote information exchange on the current implementing situation,

(2)The second session is to clarify the criteria between wastes and non-wastes,

(3)The third session is to share good practices for more effective enforcement,

(4)And finally, fourth session is to map out future projects

Let me explain in detail about the second and third points.

Waste or Non-Waste?



Waste?

Not Waste?

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Because the issues on criteria of waste was discussed many times, I do not think I need to explain more, but in a word, there is a necessity to establish a clear definition of “wastes”. For example, this slide shows a photo of TVs monitors. Are they wastes or non waste in your country?

Because each country has its own local regulation and interpretation of waste, one country may consider them as wastes, but another country may consider it as reused TV.

This time, with following up previous discussions, we would like to advance discussions from various points of view at the afternoon session of the Day 1.



At the session 3, we would like to share good practices for more effective enforcement.

We all know that most countries have already established the legal framework to control import and export of hazardous waste. If the system appropriately works, wastes go to proper recycling facilities and contribute to the environmental and economy together, by saving resources and securing employments. In reverse, if the enforcement is weak, wastes move to the cheapest facility where improper recycling are usually carried out. As a result, human health and environment will be damaged.

To counter such challenges not only in Asia but in other regions, we need to prevent illegal trade of wastes, and furthermore, to educate and nurture recycling businesses. This may sound strange to you, but the lesson of waste management in Japan tells that we can never establish a sound material-cycle society without fostering the recycling industry.

With such standpoint, we would like to share good practices of each country from both sides of illegal trading prevention and fostering proper recycling activities.

Toward Proper Import and Export

	Basel Waste	Gray Zone	Non Waste
With Procedure		2. Information Exchange	
Without Procedure	1. Enforcement		

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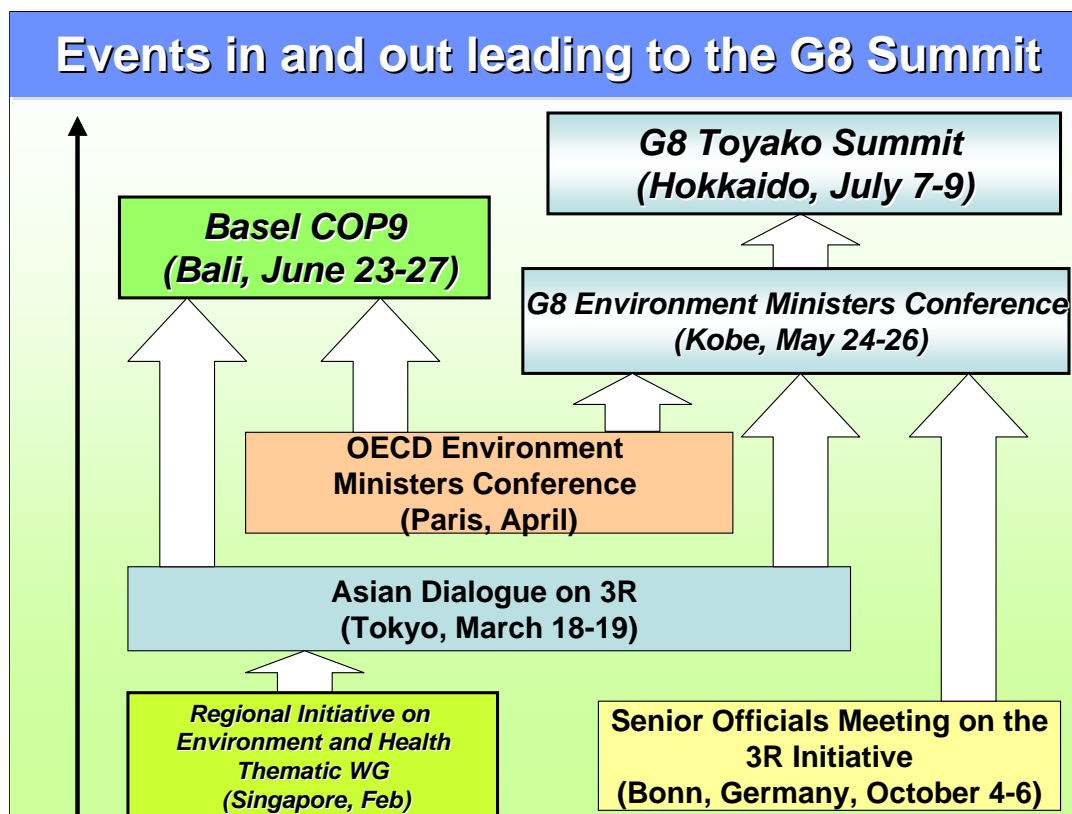
In sum, in session 2, we would like to discuss how to reduce the gap between countries, that is drawn as yellow zone. In the session 3, we will argue how to enhance enforcement shown as red blanket as well as how to nurture sound trading in the blue blanket.

I hope the information exchange of this workshop will benefit for all to improve the implementing capacity and the Basel Convention, as well as to contribute to the achievement of sound material-cycle society in Asia.

4. Future Activities

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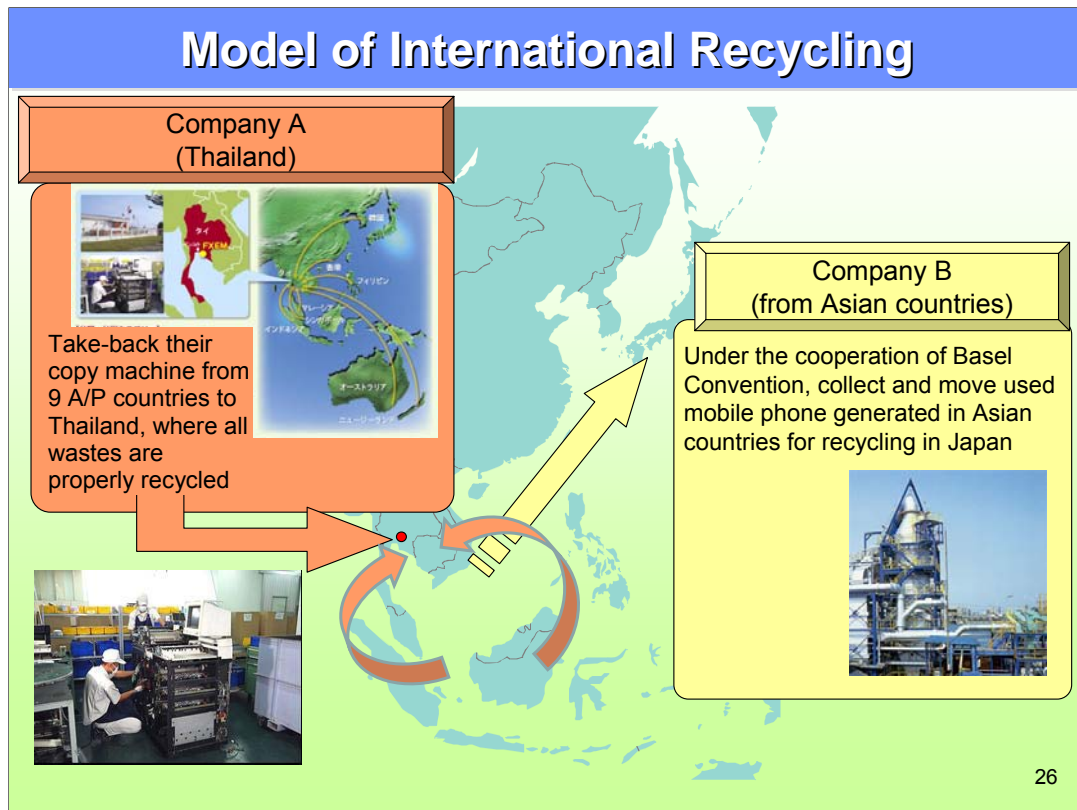
Finally, I would like to wrap up my speech by briefly touching upon our future activities.



As you know, the COP9 of the Basel Convention will be held in Bali, Indonesia, from June 23rd to 27th.

In addition, Japan will host G8 Environmental Ministerial Meeting in May, and G8 Summit Meeting in July. As the preliminary meeting, in March, the Asian Dialogue on 3R will be held in Tokyo.


Taking the opportunities, Japan would like to take an initiative to promote international 3R society, and advocate the importance of implementing the Basel Convention effectively.



Finally, I will introduce two recycling companies who already have an international recycling scheme in Asia.

One copy, who is a manufacturing company, established recycling facility in Thailand, and collect used copy machines from all over the Asian countries with necessary procedures of the Basel Convention. Another recycling company collect e-waste, especially mobile phones, for recycling them in Japan.

We would like to support these advanced activities for realizing 3R society in the whole Asia.



Have a good discussion...

I am looking forward to hearing active discussions at this meeting in two days.

Thank you for your attention.