

ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Economic growth and new technologies have materially enriched our lives and improved convenience, but they have also been detrimental to the global environment that underlies human existence. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 was a historic decision in which the international community recognized the urgency of global environment issues, and agreed to collaborate to resolve them. Here we introduce some of the actions that Japan is taking to achieve the SDGs.

1

1

1. Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

SDGs Promotion Headquarters

To promote action on the SDGs, in May 2016 Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, a Cabinet body headed by the Prime Minister with all ministers as its members. The headquarters then organized the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting, where a wide range of stakeholders including local and national government agencies, NGOs/NPOs, academia, the private sector, international organizations, and various other organizations gather and exchange opinions. In December 2016, based on the views that emerged at the Roundtable meetings, the headquarters formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles.

These principles set out Japan’s vision: “Become a leader toward a future where economic, social and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind.” The Principles also identify eight priority areas of focus by reconstructing the SDGs in light of the national context, and give concrete policies to implement. Focusing on these priority areas and utilizing the indicators set out at the same time to assess progress, the government plans to conduct its first follow-up and review process in 2019.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Correlation of Japan's Priority Areas with SDGs

People	Empowerment of All People	1 NO POVERTY	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
	Achievement of Good Health and Longevity	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING					
Prosperity	Creating Growth Market, Revitalization of Rural Areas and Promoting Technological Innovation	2 ZERO HUNGER	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES		
	Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure	2 ZERO HUNGER	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES		
Planet	Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Measures and Sound Material-Cycle Society	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION			
	Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and Oceans	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND		
Peace	Achievement of Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS					
Partnership	Strengthening the Means and Frameworks of the Implementation of the SDGs	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS					

Source : Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Achieving SDGs through Public Private Action for Partnership (PPAP)

In July 2017, Japan reported on its implementation of the SDGs to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In that presentation, Japan declared a clear commitment to take concrete actions domestically and internationally to achieve the vision set out in

the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles, and to do this through partnership between the public and private sectors, bringing together the country's diversity of knowledge and expertise, and involving civil society and private-sector businesses as well as government.

Other actions to meet the SDGs

Since the Third Basic Environment Plan of 2006, Japan has stipulated "Integrated improvements of the environment, economy and society" as a direction for future environmental policy. That direction is fundamentally aligned with the SDGs. Consequently, the Basic Environment Plan is being examined by the Central Environment Council to adopt the principles and approaches of the SDGs. The Ministry of the Environment holds

stakeholders' meetings to provide a venue for sharing and recognizing trailblazing actions. In FY2016, there were three such meetings, with a total attendance of about 600. Participants shared case studies of pioneering enterprises that were taking action on the SDGs. Other action by the ministry includes publicizing the latest information from around the world and enhancing networking between stakeholders.

1. Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2

ACTIONS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Effective use of private sector money and technology to resolve the challenges that our society faces is the key to achieving the SDGs. Japanese businesses are now gaining a deeper understanding of the SDGs and taking action to contribute to the goals. This can be seen in practical actions incorporated into business plans and implemented by operating divisions.

Sumitomo Chemical's Sustainable Tree project



Sumitomo Chemical Group has a project named "Sustainable Tree" which is open to all group employees worldwide. Staff are invited to think about what they can do in their day-to-day work and daily lives to contribute to the SDGs, posting their ideas on the Sustainable Tree website. This activity enhances understanding of the SDGs, and also boosts employee motivation.

Source : Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited

"2030 SDGs" card game

Imacollabo Association developed the "2030 SDGs" card game as a way for players to discover and experience the path that leads to achieving the 2030 targets by simultaneously achieving goals for environment, economy and society dimensions of the SDGs. The game is being used in government agencies and private sector businesses to promote understanding of the SDGs.



Source : Imacollabo Association

ACTIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SDGs and local governments

Some progressive local governments are already beginning to incorporate aspects of the SDGs into their own policies. For instance, Shiga Prefecture and Nagano Prefecture are actively considering how to factor SDGs into their prefectural basic guidelines. Sapporo City is reviewing its basic environment plan from the viewpoint of how to

contribute to the SDGs. As a model example in towns and villages, the town of Uchiko in Ehime prefecture, whose population is only 18,000, began organizing workshops as soon as the SDGs were adopted. Through these workshops, local residents, public servants, researchers, NPO people, and others are studying actions at the community level.

“FutureCity” initiative

The Cabinet Office designated 11 cities throughout Japan as “future cities” that would aim to achieve a sustainable economy and society. The FutureCity concept has much in common with SDG11 (Sustainable cities and communities), and it is hoped that knowledge acquired in Japan through this initiative can contribute to achieving that goal.

SDGs guidelines for local government

In March 2017, the Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (IBEC) gave a boost to the SDG actions of local authorities by publishing guidelines for local government SDGs initiatives.



SDGs Workshop in Uchiko Town, Ehime prefecture