

11.9 Conventions, Protocols and Associated Laws

In keeping with the globalization of environmental problems, Japan has concluded a number of international conventions and protocols and promulgated domestic laws to implement them. The subsequent sections give an overview and descriptions of the principal conventions, protocols and domestic laws relating to air quality conservation.

11.9.1 Overview

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden in June 1972, was the first international forum in which Japan took a serious part in the field of environmental administration. Subsequently, Japan played leading roles in the Nairobi Conference held in Kenya in 1982 and in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

11.9.2 Conventions and Protocols

The Japanese government continued to make a range of efforts to promote international cooperation for the environment after signing the Environmental Protection Cooperation Agreement between the Japanese Government and the Government of the United States of America in 1975. Of these efforts, the signing of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocols for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1988) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994) that was basically agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, has had a direct bearing on air quality conservation.

11.9.3 Promulgation of Domestic Laws

The Japanese government enacted the Law Concerning the Protection of the Ozone Layer by Regulating Certain Substances in 1988 and proceeded with diverse measures such as regulating the production of specified substances (CFC). It is also endeavoring to protect the ozone layer by observing the ozone layer conditions and measuring the atmospheric concentrations of specified substances (CFC). Efforts to cope with climate change associated with global warming are also underway, through the Action Program to Prevent Global Warming, adopted by the Cabinet, and the Law Concerning Rational Use of Energy (Energy Saving Law).

(11.1~11.9) References

- 1) Environmental Law Study Group, Environment Agency of Japan, eds., Environmental Laws, Chuo Hoki (1997)
- 2) Planning and Coordination Bureau, Environment Agency of Japan, Environmental Impact Assessment Law (1997)
- 3) Suzuki, Toshio, Introduction to Environmental Laws, Diamond Sha (1997)
- 4) Action Program to Prevent Global Warming, The Industrial Pollution Prevention Association (1990)