

# CAI Newsletter

Clean Asia Initiative [CAI]

## Japan's Initiative for Integrated Territorial Development and SDGs “Circulating and Ecological Economy” Sustainable Infrastructure for Promotion of Regional/Local CES

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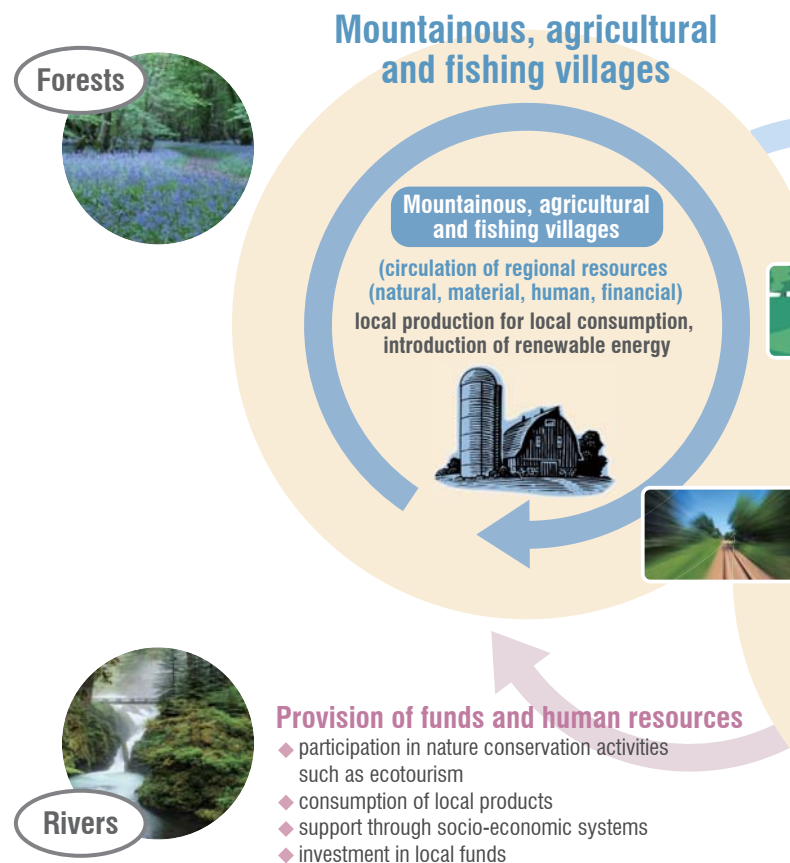
## Topic

# Japan's Initiative for Integrating "Circulating and Ecological Sustainable Infrastructure for

In order to achieve the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including its SDGs, and the Paris Agreement for Climate Change, transformations are required to change the way our society works. Efforts are needed to address all three dimensions of sustainable development —environmental, economic, and social — as well as to realize decarbonized society to remain within planetary boundaries. The business-as-usual models and silo-approaches have to be overcome. It is essential to strategically implement more integrated, holistic policies across different sectors to tackle complex and cross-sectoral issues in environmental, economic and social dimensions

To this end, the Government of Japan adopted its Fifth Basic Environment Plan in April 2018 and proposed the concept of a "Circulating and Ecological Economy." This concept aims to create innovations in socio-economic systems, lifestyles, and technologies, achieve integrated improvements on environment, economy and society, and realize decarbonisation by incorporating the SDGs. To do so, it requires taking environmental policies as opportunities to address various regional and international economic challenges simultaneously, and to discover new avenues for new growth to ensure better quality of life in the future.

There are two key visions behind this concept. Firstly, it envisages a self-reliant and decentralized society, which meets the unique demands and needs of local residents with maximum use of local resources and avoids a "one-size-fits-all"



# ated Territorial Development and SDGs Economy”

## Promotion of Regional/Local CES



society. Secondly, it strives for the sustainable use of regional (territorial) resources, circulating the available resources within a particular region and territory, complementing one another amongst neighbouring communities in a sustainable way. Moreover, this needs multi-stakeholder partnership to deliver and hence mutual cooperation becomes more crucial than ever. In short, three key phrases, “self-reliance and decentralization (ownership),” “mutual cooperation (networks),” and “circulation and symbiosis (sustainability),” are the foundation of the Circulating and Ecological Economy.

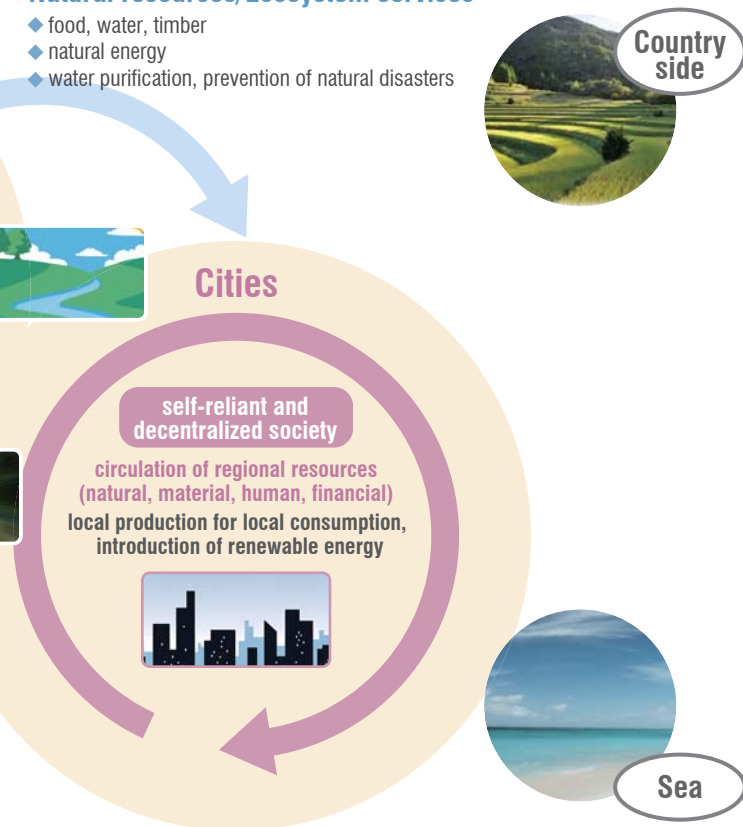
The Circulating and Ecological Economy can be divided into five spheres: Energy, Disasters, Transportation and Mobility, Lifestyles, and Business. The following descriptions show examples of actions in each sphere.

### 1 “Self-reliant, decentralized energy systems”

Encouraging regional renewable energy business and promoting local production for local consumption, as well as interregional exchange of energy to secure energy sources in each region/locality. Economic and social systems to support regional renewable energy business should be established, which will bring major business opportunities to the region.

#### Natural resources/Ecosystem services

- ◆ food, water, timber
- ◆ natural energy
- ◆ water purification, prevention of natural disasters



### 2 “Disaster-resilient cities”

Securing more reliable energy sources/lifelines through the use of locally produced renewable energy. Synergistic effects of disaster-prevention infrastructure and the ecological capacity to prevent natural disasters can avoid or reduce disaster risks magnified by climate change.

### 3 “User-friendly and attractive transportation and mobility systems”

Developing safe, convenient, and age- and family-friendly transportation such as “green slow mobility.” Green slow mobility will also provide access for tourists who wish to spend more time exploring the region.

### 4 “Healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature”

To be realized by an organic way of living, rooted in consumption of experiences rather than mere goods and services, there is increasing demand for lifestyles to enjoy health, well-being and happiness. A regional community in harmony with water circulation will lead to better quality of life with the blessings of the nature.

### 5 “Diverse business creation”

Rooted in and inspired by unique regional characteristics and needs, potentially operating across different sectors such as energy, tourism, education, and human resource development. These should be financed by regional finance, ESG finance, and local funds to ensure sustainability. Some business owners have realised that it is a huge risk to continue to invest in businesses that have a major environmental impact. Those with foresight have started to address the risk within their own core businesses, turning environmental challenges into an opportunity for new value creation.

Aiming to realize the Circulating and Ecological Economy, development and sharing of technologies, institutions and know-how are needed to support sustainability and development, and to share know-how. The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) has been intensifying its efforts to support local and regional sustainability. Based on the Basic Strategy of the Promotion of Environmental Infrastructure launched in 2017, MOEJ further promotes transfer of knowledge, systems and technologies, and good practices that have been accumulated in Japan under public-private partnerships to developing countries, which will contribute to the realization of the Circulating and Ecological Economy and Regional/Local Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES) in these countries.



Photo: Rich Carey/Shutterstock.com

# International Collaboration to Tackle Marine Plastic Debris

## MOEJ proposed an action plan for collaborative actions at ASEAN +3



Marine plastic debris has now become an emerging concern both domestically and internationally. The impacts of plastic waste are diverse, covering the marine environment including its ecosystems, with impacts on fisheries, tourism and living conditions in coastal areas, and causing obstacles to shipping navigation. Pollution from microplastics has also been gaining attention.

The international community is paying a great deal of attention to marine plastic debris and urges actions to mitigate the problem. The "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" adopted by the United Nations in 2015 set a target for marine debris reduction. A resolution by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2017 addresses the issue of "marine plastic litter and microplastics." In addition, these issues have been addressed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016 and the 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit in June 2018, the "Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Ocean, Ocean, and Resilient Coastal Communities" was adopted, and countries decided to promote the control of plastics. Measures include the "Marine Plastics Charter" and the "Ocean Plastics Charter" agreed upon by several countries, setting numerical targets

to strengthen the control of plastics.

Asian countries also recognized marine plastic debris and microplastics as important issues to tackle. The China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) held in Suzhou City, China in June 2018 recognized marine plastics as an international issue, and the ASEAN+3 Summit held in November of the same year also took it up. The East Asian Summit Meeting (EAS) statement included the "promotion of waste management and 3Rs, raising awareness on marine plastic waste, promotion of research and education, and strengthening regional and international cooperation." An estimation of the amount of plastic debris flowing from the land to the ocean (in 2010) based on population density, economic condition and other related elements reported that East and Southeast Asia countries make up the first to fourth biggest emitters of plastic waste. All countries in the region are working to strengthen their efforts on mitigate plastic debris issues.

With the revision of the Act on Promoting the Treatment of Marine Debris in June 2018, the Japanese government added preserving the marine environment as an objective and also include countermeasures to address marine plastic

debris and microplastics by promoting the 3Rs and other activities. "The Fourth Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society" decided by the Cabinet in June 2018 incorporates measures to mitigate marine debris including microplastics as one of the efforts to be taken. Responding to the plan, a plastic resources recycling strategy will be formulated by the G20 Summit to be held in Japan in 2019. In December 2018, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Promotion Headquarters of Japan decided on the "SDGs Action Plan 2019" that includes marine plastic debris as an action area. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Environment is promoting system development and actions in Japan, such as the "Plastics Smart Campaign - for Sustainable Ocean," which promotes "a smart way of dealing with plastic."

The marine plastic debris is an issue that all countries should tackle, and it is necessary for each country to flexibly proceed with the formulation and implementation of measures while considering individual circumstances. In order to do so, it is required to promote international cooperation such as support for capacity development on 3R and waste management, the accumulation of scientific knowledge on the outflow route and distribution of plastic waste, innovation in the field of 3Rs and alternative materials, and networks for knowledge sharing.



A plenary session on marine plastic debris at the 10th EAS High Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities

Based on this recognition, the Japanese government advocated the "ASEAN+3 Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative" at the ASEAN+3 Summit in November 2018, and the proposal was welcomed by the participating countries. The Ministry of the Environment will promote cooperation for the implementation of this initiative.

## Outline of "ASEAN+3 Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative Action Initiative"

### 1 Improve management of plastic waste by environmentally sound waste management and "3R" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

- Capacity development on sound waste management
- Knowledge sharing such as through the Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific and by the institutions such as ERIA

### 2 Promote awareness, research and education on marine plastic debris

- Awareness raising of non-state actors such as local governments, citizens and business sector
- Capacity development on monitoring including introduction of harmonized and standardized methods for monitoring micro-plastics
- Cooperation in preliminary research on marine plastic debris such as its distribution
- Knowledge sharing on practices of national governments and R&D

### 3 Strengthen regional and international cooperation

- Seeking for the possibility of establishing a regional knowledge hub
- Developing capacity to prepare national action plans/ programs/initiatives to address marine plastic debris



Prime Minister Abe mentioned that Japan would strengthen regional cooperation on the issue of marine plastic debris in his statement at the 21th ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting

Source: [http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/98\\_abe/actions/201811/15asean2.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/98_abe/actions/201811/15asean2.html)

# Japan's Contribution to Circular Economy and Decarbonisation Overseas by Strategic Global Promotion of Sustainable Infrastructure

A combination of rapid urbanization and economic development has resulted in a sharp increase in waste generated within cities in developing countries. Urban population growth increased 8% in China, 7% in Thailand, 5% in Indonesia and 4% in Viet Nam between 2010 and 2016 (World Bank, 2018, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.urb.totl>). From 2010 to 2015, annual municipal solid waste (MSW) production in China, Thailand, Viet Nam, India and Pakistan combined grew by an estimated 60 Mt, to over 300 Mt (United Nations, 2018, Municipal Wastes database, <http://data.un.org>). Despite of these increased inputs, MSW management systems have not been keeping up with the fast pace. In Indonesia, only 40% of all waste is treated and 55% is disposed of at open-dumping sites. Only Jakarta and some cities have managed to implement controlled land-fill.

Under this context, more and more countries in Asia are highlighting the concepts of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) and also "waste to resource." Waste to Energy (WtE) is one option from the "waste to resource" approach that could address not only waste issues but also energy and climate change problems. Integrated action on both resource circulation and climate change has been noted essential in the Toyama Framework on Material Cycles adopted by the G7 in 2016 and in the 4th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society.

Proper waste management also contributes to the improvement of human health and the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted at the UN summit in September, 2015 as part of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, have targets relevant to improved waste management. For example,

Goal 11 Sustainable Cities for All, Target 6 addresses reducing the adverse environmental impact of cities through waste management among others. Food waste is addressed in Target 12.3 and reduction of waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse in Target 12.5. Hence, the proper waste management and resource circulation are key concerns for the global community.

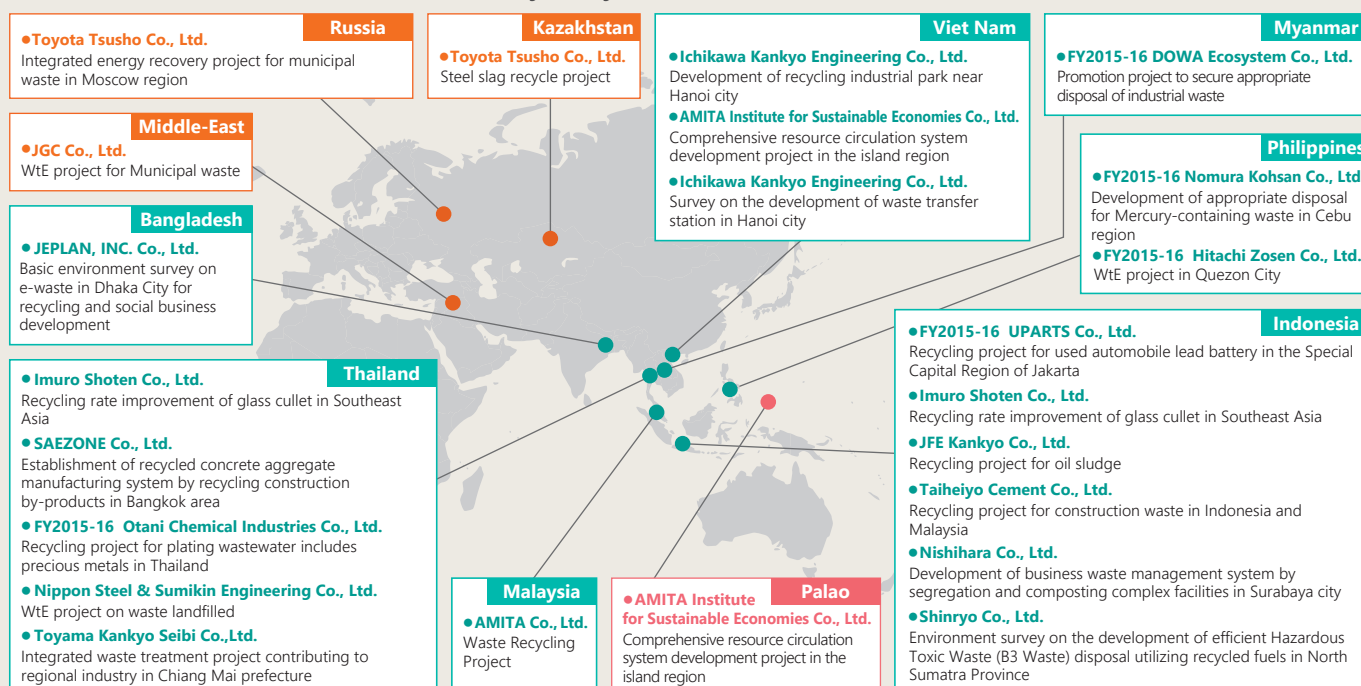
The Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) has been expanding various initiatives, shown in the boxes below, thereby contributing to massive reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improved waste management in Asian countries through technologies of resource circulation industries in Japan. Among others, the waste to energy (WtE) not only contributes to reducing the amount of waste sent to open-dumping sites, but also aims to meet the increased demands of electricity. The WtE will be a key to addressing multiple goals simultaneously and will contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

With Myanmar, Indonesia, Viet Nam and other countries, MOEJ has been making progress on promoting WtE plants through joint committees. There are also ongoing efforts on creating guidelines to support governments on WtE. MOEJ has supported city-to-city collaboration on WtE projects conducted between Kitakyushu City and Davao City (the Philippines), Osaka City and Quezon City (the Philippines), and Yokohama City and Cebu City (the Philippines).

MOEJ will continue to enhance international cooperation on WtE and explore collaboration with international organisations so as to contribute to the improvement of waste management and the achievement of decarbonized society.

## MOEJ's Assistance to Private Sector Feasibility Study Research

FY2015-2016



# 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)

The 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) was held on 2-15 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. Japan proactively contributed to the discussions toward adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP), which was adopted at COP24, throughout the conferences.

Japan shared the progress and outcomes of the actions to address climate change at COP24 through the statement of the Minister of the Environment, the Talanoa Dialogue, and the events and exhibition at the Japan Pavilion. The progress and outcomes includes showing its intention to be a model of “virtuous cycle of environment and growth,” contribution to the monitoring of greenhouse gases (GHG) with greenhouse gas observation satellite “Ibuki,” and reduction of GHG emissions for four consecutive years.



Statement by Mr. Yoshiaki Harada, Minister of the Environment at COP24

## 01 Sharing stories through “Talanoa Japan” towards de-carbonizing society

“Talanoa” is a traditional Fijian word that was proposed by Fiji (COP23 Presidency), to convey the idea of transparency, inclusiveness and harmony. “Talanoa Dialogue” called at COP23 is a process different from the international negotiations and wider participation of non-state actors can participate and deepen mutual understandings on the actions and the targets of the countries.

Best practices or stories to shape the future on climate change was shared by different stakeholders through the “Talanoa Japan” that is the Japanese version of a portal of best practices. The best practices collected through the portal site reflected to the submission of the Japanese to the UNFCCC and also share at the Japan Pavilion set up at the COP24.

Talanoa Japan: <http://copjapan.env.go.jp/talanoa/en/>

## 02 Japan Pavilion

Japan set up an official event booth called “Japan Pavilion” in the venue of COP24. About 40 events and exhibition were held at the Pavilion so as to promote climate actions of the government, institutions and other stakeholders.

### Report of Side Event at the Japan Pavilion

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### A carbon neutral and resilient future – Japan’s Vision

6 December 2018

Organized by Ministry of the Environment, Japan; Secretariat of Talanoa Japan; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

The session deepened a discussion on how Japan would achieve a carbon neutral and resilient future by reviewing the experience shared the Talanoa Dialogues in Japan.

Firstly, Ministry of the Environment of Japan explained the major contents of Japan’s submission to the global Talanoa Dialogue led



by UNFCCC, and introduced visions and efforts shared through the Talanoa process in Japan. It is also underlined that Japan, assuming presidency of G20 in 2019, is committed to create a virtuous cycle between the environmental protection and economic growth. It was also stressed that Japan is in the process of preparing its long-term low GHG emission development strategy.

Secondly, Kyoto City introduced the vision of Kyoto. He explained that Kyoto will become a net zero-emission city in the latter half of the century through promoting transformative changes in lifestyle, work-style, and urban infrastructure, as well as through exchanging knowledge and experience by city-to-city collaboration. He also introduced two key relevant documents namely “Road to Zero Project” and “Kyoto Declaration for Cultivating a Culture of Sustainable Cities.”

The next speaker from Challenergy Inc. – an environmental business venture introduced a new wind turbine technology - the Magnus Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (Magnus VAWT) that is the first wind turbine in the world that can generate electricity even during typhoons, and is currently under the research and development.

The Secretariat of Talanoa Japan introduced further stories of non-state actors such as construction and housing sector, iron and steel sector, local governments and NGOs, which were shared through Talanoa Japan, the online portal site.

In the following discussion segment, Thyssenkrupp AG, Germany, invited as a designated discussant shared the experience of Talanoa Dialogue at SBSTA48 in Bonn in April/May, 2018 and highlighted the importance of immediate actions by the current generation to hand over the carbon neutral and resilient future to the next generation.

## SDGs localization and environment, society, economy in cities and region - regional circulating and ecological sphere

10 December 2018

Organised by Ministry of the Environment, Japan;  
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Three years have passed since the Paris Agreement signed in 2015, and efforts towards decarbonization are progressing in various countries around the world. Cities and regions standing at forefront of this challenge have recognized the needs to shift the ways we see economy and society in order to transform towards a new civilized society. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on the other hand, have gained its global recognition and helped to steer-up discussions for sustainability also at the local level. With its general principle and goals and indicators, SDGs has helped local governments to rethink and adjust its policy to look sustainability in a longer term, with comprehensive manner.

Through these recognition, integration of a low-carbon society, resource circulation and a society in harmony with nature are becoming ever more fundamental for cities and regions to consider its policies and actions towards sustainability. The side event discussed the importance of such an integration in the context of localizing SDGs in cities and regions that the concept of "Circulating and Ecological Economy" in the fifth Basic Environment Plan of Japan aims for. Relevant policies and actions taken by cities and regions were shared, and the participants reaffirmed the importance of cities and regions to continue sharing the experience through relevant networks.

In the beginning of the session, Prof. Takeuchi, Chair of the Central Environment Council, Japan and IGES President introduced the concept of "Circulating and Ecological Economy" in the 5th Basic Environmental Plan of Japan, as a concept of policy integration of low-carbon society, circular economy and co-existence with nature.

As concrete measures embraced in cities and regions, local governments of Japan namely Nagao Prefecture, Itabashi Ward of Tokyo, and Yokohama City shared their experiences and future plan. It emphasized that cities and rural areas should be re-connected with natural resources and be self-reliant for materials and energy. Furthermore, it is pointed out that Circulating and Ecological Economy is a beneficial policy approach not only in Japan but also in other countries and cities around the world, with its potential to inspire effective policy formulation.

Turku, Finland which has set up its goal to achieve carbon neutral by 2029 and to become a resource-wise city also expressed its strong interest in international cooperation and information exchange in realizing "Circulating and Ecological Economy" through global city network such as ICLEI.



©ICLEI Japan

With strong supports from cities, ICLEI launched the Green Circular Cities Coalition (GCCC) to accelerate city-to-city cooperation on circular cities. GCCC will contribute to realizing the vision of circular cities and "Circulating and Ecological Economy" through multi-level governance and international cooperation and the session reassured its value and importance. Participants also stressed that "Circulating and Ecological Economy" should be incorporated in city management as an important concept and be promoted in the important negotiations at international level in 2019 including G20 in Japan.

## Promoting the private sector engagement through the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI)

11 December 2018

Organized by Ministry of the Environment, Japan; World Resources Institute;  
Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC), Japan

In order to implement the Paris Agreement as an effective framework, it is indispensable to keep enhancing transparency of reporting fundamental information on climate change countermeasures and their impacts through system development and institutional arrangement. Also, enhanced contribution to climate change actions from the non-state actors will be expected in the coming years.

With these background, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) established "Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI)" in cooperation with World Resources Institute (WRI) at COP23 in 2017. PaSTI highlights added-values to existing initiatives on transparency, and promotes engagement of the private sector and local government by identifying incentive mechanisms and developing critical tools.

At the beginning of the session, OECC introduced the background and concept of PaSTI and the efforts of the private sector. While voluntary efforts on climate change by private sector are spreading, differences among countries exist as barriers.

Mr. Andrew Steer, CEO of WRI, mentioned the importance of grasping GHG emissions in each country and the dialogue between the private sector and the national government, hoping for PaSTI to contribute to achieving the ambitious goal of Indonesia.

Minister Harada of MOEJ introduced climate change countermeasures activities in Japan such as MRV system, promotion of Science Based Targets (SBT), and the launch of GOSAT-2. Then, Minister Bun Bang of National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) touched upon the signing ceremony of First Letter of Intent between MOEJ and BAPPENAS held in September 2018, and the five objectives of PaSTI initiative in Indonesia.

Mr. Chun, Chairperson of the AWGCC, showed the challenges and backgrounds of climate change in the ASEAN region and hoped that cooperation with PaSTI would bring resilience to ASEAN countries

At the Panel discussion, speakers from BAPPENAS, ASEAN Working Group Singapore Focal Point, OECC, WRI made presentations. The main messages delivered from the side event are as follows.

- Enhancing transparency in the private sector is extremely important for the implementation of NDC and climate change actions in the region, and for creation of innovation.
- While government is leading various initiatives including climate change countermeasures and MRV building etc., and the private sector are also voluntarily participating in CDP, SBT and



formulating its long-term strategy, there is a lack of cooperation between each other.

- In order to strengthen transparency, dialogue between the government and the private sector, establishment of incentive schemes to encourage private sector engagement, and

development of guidelines and platforms are considered necessary.

- Finally, this side event enjoyed a large turnout and was a great opportunity to widely disseminate the activities of PaSTI.

### 03 A Way Forward

Japan hosted the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in June 2019 and its output will become an input to the 2019 G20 Summit held Osaka in the same month. Japan will take a leadership to realize “virtuous cycle of environment and growth” as the host country.

Japan will also host the 49th session of the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 49) from 8 to 12 May 2019 in Kyoto City. Japan has been supporting the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories for 20 years since 1999. At the IPCC49, a new Methodology Report titled “2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories” (2019 Refinement) will be considered by the IPCC for adoption/acceptance. This new report will be a basis of inventory development and therefore necessary for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The acceptance of the new report will be a contribution of Japan to the world.

## Highlights of the Japan’s Assistance to Address Climate Change 2018

announced on 7 December 2018

Japan announced the Japan’s Assistance to Address Climate Change 2018 on 7 December 2018 and shared it at COP24. The document shows the vision and concrete actions of Japan’s international assistance to address climate change.

● **Adaptation:** The Climate Change Adaptation Law was enacted in December 2018. Based on these experiences, Japan will cooperate with countries vulnerable to climate change such through the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) and support these countries for the assessment for climate change impacts and formulation of adaptation plans.

● **Mitigation:** To contribute to significant reduction of global GHG emissions, Japan will promote scale-up from pilot to large projects and market development by making use of the achievement of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), facilitate co-innovation that delivers innovation jointly with developing countries.

● **Transparency:** Japan will contribute to further enhancing transparency by monitoring whole-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> and methane concentration with GHG Observing Satellite “GOSAT-2” that was successfully launched in October 2018 and by the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for Co-Innovation on which Japan signed the first bilateral letter of intent with the government of Indonesia in October 2018.

● **IPCC Session:** Japan is going to host the 49th Session of the IPCC in Kyoto in May 2019. Through hosting the IPCC Session to refine the methodologies for the inventory, Japan will support an appropriate measurement of each country’s GHG emissions and steady implementation of the Paris Agreement.

6th

## JCM Partner Countries’ High-level Meeting

The 6th JCM Partner Countries’ High-level Meeting was held on 11 December, 2018 at the Japan Pavilion during COP24 in Katowice, Poland, with participation of representatives from 15 JCM partner countries out of 17.

The meeting participants welcomed that more than 130 projects in the partner countries have been implemented, and these projects have made real impacts in each country by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating sustainable development co-benefits. Based on the good relationships that have been established, the Japanese government expressed to continue its efforts to realize “co-innovation” through the JCM, working together with partner countries to create a market for decarbonization products, services and technologies that reflect each country’s challenges and needs, thereby transforming our social economic system. The Ministry of the Environment continues its efforts to promote climate mitigation actions globally with steady by implementation of JCM and superior low-carbon technology transfer.



# Bilateral Meeting



## Japan-Vietnam Environmental Week

On 9–11 January 2019, Japan and Viet Nam organized the “Japan-Vietnam Environmental Week.” During the Week, the Policy Dialogue on Environmental Issues was held with participation of Mr. Takaaki Katsumata, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Environment, Japan and H.E. Vo Tuan Nhan, Vice Minister for Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). Through the policy dialogue and a meeting of Mr. Katsumata and Minister Tran Hong Ha, MONRE, both countries confirmed the direction of cooperation. Through series of information and knowledge sharing

such as business matching and workshops, information of sustainable infrastructure technologies were introduced, and participants discussed the direction of cooperation for promotion of sustainable infrastructure.

The Joint-Committee on Waste Management and 3R was established between MOEJ and MONRE, and its first meeting was organized.



## MOEJ and MONREC, Myanmar signed the Memorandum of Cooperation and Workshop on waste management

On 20 August 2018, Mr. Ito, then-State Minister of the Environment, Japan and H.E. U Ohn Winn, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar (MONREC) signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to strengthen, facilitate and develop mutual cooperation in the field of environment between Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) and MONREC. Following the signing ceremony, a bilateral meeting between Mr. Ito and Minister U Ohn Winn confirmed of strengthening comprehensive environmental

cooperation based on the MOC and discussed ways to cooperation such on waste management. In the Joint Workshop on Waste Management, representative from the two largest commercial cities in Myanmar (Yangon City and Mandalay City), Fukuoka City, and the private sector joined and discussed how to improve the Myanmar’s waste management.



## MOEJ and MEFCC, India signed the Memorandum of Cooperation

On 29 October 2018, during the visit of H.E. Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India to Japan, Mr. Yoshiyuki Harada, Minister of the Environment and H.E. Sujan R. Chinoy, Ambassador of India to Japan signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between MOEJ and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Republic of India (MEFCC) in the Field of Environmental Cooperation

that aims to promote cooperation between the countries in the field of the environment. Before the signing of the MOC, Mr. Harada and H.E. Mr. Chinoy met and discuss such on Joukaso. They confirmed cooperation of both countries in the field of the environment based on the MOC and works together to address global environmental problems such as climate change, marine plastic debris.



## MOEJ and MONRE, Thailand signed the Memorandum of Cooperation

In 17 May 2018, Mr. Nakagawa, then-Minister of the Environment, Japan and H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to strengthen, facilitate and develop mutual cooperation in the field of environment between two countries. After the signing ceremony, the first

policy dialogues on environmental issues were held and the Ministers confirmed that both countries would strength comprehensive cooperation based on the MOC. The direction of cooperation such on climate adaptation, 3R and waste management, measures against PM2.5 was also discussed.



## Environmental Dialogue on Waste Management between the Philippines and Japan

The 4th Environmental Dialogue on Waste Management between the Philippines and Japan was organized in Manila, the Philippines in February, 2019, in which Mr. Yasuo Takahashi,

Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs participated. The dialogue confirmed the progress and results of city-to-city collaboration projects between the Philippines and Japan and discussed how to promote them further.





## Environment Policy Dialogue with Mongolia

On 20 December 2018, the 12th Policy Dialogue on Environmental Issues between Japan and Mongolia was organized by the Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This was the first dialogue since the visit of H.E. Mr. Ukhnaa KHURELSUKH, Prime Minister of Mongolia to Japan, during which, on 13 December, both heads of state were witness to the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) by H.E. Batbayar, Minister of MET and Mr. Kiuchi, State Minister of the Environment, Japan. The policy dialogue

discussed “dust and sand storms” and “activities on the view of co-benefit” which are areas of cooperation that have been newly added to the MOC. Both countries confirmed the direction of the cooperation between the countries on issues such as adaptation measures against climate change and cooperation on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), and agreed to conduct validation of greenhouse gas monitoring data by the Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite “Ibuki” in Mongolia, which is the first validation to be conducted outside of Japan.

## International and Regional Meeting

### 2nd World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2018

WCEF was held in Yokohama, Japan on 22-24 October 2018, organised by Sitra and MOEJ. This annual forum brought together over 1,000 key thinkers and doers from around the world, and presented the world’s best circular economy solutions. Among those innovative solutions, Yokohama City, the host city presented its implementation of biomass energy production by utilizing methane gas produced by collected organic waste.



WCEF2018 © Yuki Kato

Opening speech by Mr. Harada, Minister of the Environment, Japan



WCEF2018 © Tatsuya Hirota

### 9th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Thailand, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ) and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) co-organised the 9th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific on 3-6 March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum aims to promote high-level policy dialogues in the region and sharing information on policies and technologies on 3R. The theme of the 9th Forum was “3R as a way for moving towards sufficiency economy - Implications for SDGs.”

### 11th Regional EST Forum

On 3-5 October 2018, Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) organized the 11th Regional EST Forum with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and other relevant organizations in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The forum aims to facilitate high-level policy dialogues on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST). Under the theme of “Sustainable Urban Design and Development - Role of EST,” government representatives from 21 Asian countries in charge of the fields of environment and transport, local government representatives, international resource persons, representatives from various United Nations and international organizations shared and discussed EST policies of each country. MOEJ and the experts from Japan introduced cases of sustainable city planning and transportation in Japan. The forum participants also discussed the direction of the regional EST Forum and confirmed to continue to promote EST.

10<sup>th</sup>

## EAS High Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities and the Seminar on Sustainable Infrastructure for Asian Cities

Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) co-organized the 10th EAS High Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities (HLS) with the Government of Indonesia, ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (WGESC), and ASEAN Secretariat on 21-22 January 2019 in Bali, Indonesia. Following the seminar, the Seminar on Sustainable Infrastructure for Asian Cities was organised on 23 January by MOEJ and Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia.

Under the theme of localizing SDGs, the 10th HLS shared good practices to promote SDGs at local level and also how to address the challenges for it on the ground from national and local governments in the region, international organizations, and private sector. From Japan, MOEJ introduced the concept of "Circulating and Ecological Economy" proposed by the 5th Basic

Environment Plan of Japan, and the representatives of 9 local governments shared their experiences on localizing SDGs and climate actions. The seminar participants also discussed financial mechanisms to promote sustainable infrastructure and the issue of marine plastic debris as the challenges related to SDGs implementation on the ground.

In the Seminar on Sustainable Infrastructure for Asian Cities, a local government of Thailand and the Indonesian government introduced their actions related to the theme, which was followed by the examples of the JCM (Joint Crediting Mechanism) Model Project including introduction of technologies for energy-saving, renewable energy, finance services to introduction of sustainable infrastructure. The participants actively discussed ways to facilitate application of sustainable infrastructure.



### Information on City-to-city Collaboration Program and Feasibility Study on JCM

Ministry of the Environment's Web Portal for Low Carbon Development in Asia

<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/lowcarbon-asia/english/>

Main information

- Trends in international negotiations and related systems
- Governmental agencies in Asian countries
- Low-carbon/environmental policies in Asian countries
- Governmental support systems for overseas business development



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